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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1999

Volume 52

Number 4



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 10 Scott Dr. N, Broomfield, CO 80020-1138.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000, Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

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JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

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African Violet

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Rodeo Country
Best in Show
Best Standard
1999 National Show
Exhibited by: **Elmer Godeny**
Hybridized by: **J. C. Munk**



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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

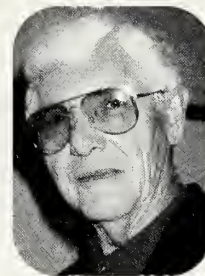


President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

The African violet world was deeply saddened by the recent passing of two prominent members, L.T. Ozio, Jr. and Lyndon Lyon. Mr. Ozio served as library chairman, board member, and executive offices leading to the office of president from 1995 to 1997. Mr. Lyon was perhaps the most important hybridizer we have known. His development of the pink African violet was a huge breakthrough. That paved the way for all the many beautiful colors we know today. Mr. Lyon was inducted into the AVSA Hall of Fame at the AVSA convention in Houston. First and foremost, both LT and Lyndon were true gentlemen and were loved and respected by everyone who had the pleasure to know them. I am sure the entire membership joins me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to their families.



Because AVSA is a non-profit organization, occasionally we find it necessary to increase our membership dues, due to the increase in costs of printing the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. We have found it necessary to institute a small increase effective October 1, 1999. However, for the first time, we are offering rates for one, two, or three years. There are two advantages in renewing for the longer term. You save a little money and you don't have to remember to renew for two or three years! Watch for the new rates that will be published in the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.

Most of you are also aware of our special funds that are possible through your generous donations. In order to keep our dues as low as possible, we rely on these funds to help out on expenses. The Building Maintenance Fund does just what the title implies. This fund is used to keep the building in repair. The Boyce Edens Research Fund is used for grants to universities to carry out specified studies on African violets such as diseases, pests, etc. This fund is also the source of our recently implemented scholarship grants. The Booster Fund is used for various expenses, but in recent years part of these funds have been used for the replacement of office equipment. Mr. Bill Lyons is the chairman of the Booster Fund Committee and his current project is to raise funds to purchase a much needed copy machine for the office. He would appreciate your help in this endeavor.

Take care of your violets and yourselves during the upcoming summer heat. Be sure to keep "feeding the kitty" in preparation for your Omaha trip!

Truly,

Bill Foster
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

You are all familiar with the great articles we reprint from our affiliated club publications. These newsletters allow us to share information from around the African violet world. In this issue we're fortunate to have the expertise of two violet professionals, **Ralph** and **Olive Ma Robinson**, in an article from their publication, *VioletsFun Photo Journal*. As the name states, this is a fun publication filled with growing information and personal notes, as Rob and Olive share their violet experiences and travels. Available in English and Chinese, the Robinsons are reaching a diverse group of growers. Read, "How to Repot African Violets", on page 43 (for more information about VioletsFun see the ad on page 56).

My friend, **John Beaulieu**, author of the *African Violet and Gesneriad News*, recently sent me an advance copy of his new publication *An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and Their Relatives*. This handy booklet is filled with information for growers, beautiful color photos, and precise illustrations. (see John's ad on page 57, and his article on Fungus Gnats on page 53).

Ways to increase membership in AVSA are something many of us think about. I thought we would focus on some of the stronger, successful affiliated clubs in an attempt to help others find new solutions or ideas for their own local organizations. The first club to be highlighted is the **Cedar**

Valley AVC of Iowa. **Barbara Pershing's** article on page 52 is both interesting and informative. If your club is thriving and you'd like to share your secrets for success, please contact me. These will be run on a "space allows" basis under the heading "What Makes This Club So Successful?"

Thanks to my dear friend, **Ralph Breden**, for the excellent article on page 20, "Originality in Show Schedules". Ralph wrote this article while in Houston for the convention.

Rose Marie Yeates of Florida, sent information that should come in handy to all members of AVSA. Rose Marie uses handy magazine organizers to keep her collection of AVMs in order and in good condition. Many of our other members use these as well. They are plastic strips with a long center hole to slide to the center of the magazines, and have three holes along the outside for insertion into an ordinary 3-ring binder. These "magazine organizers" are available at most office and school supply stores, and are a very inexpensive way to protect your AVMs for future reference. Thanks, **Rose Marie** for sharing this tip.

If you attended the Houston convention, you probably sampled the tasty Texas treats in the Hospitality Suite. Even if you weren't there, you could still try them! **Marge Savage** sent the recipes, and if you'll send me a SASE I'll be happy to mail a copy of them to you.

FIRST THINGS FIRST IN OMAHA



Yes, we want you to "Go Wild in Omaha"! We want you to have fun, and we want you to enjoy the wild things we've got to do here. But first things first! African violets will rule here (right along with gesneriads and designs). We want you to come bringing plants and designs to exhibit!

Next spring you can send in your registration; you can reserve your room; you can buy some new clothes and dye your hair. But NOW you need to choose your plants and set them aside to grow for show. Don't put this off!

We are going to go wild over our exhibitors in Omaha with a special prize. Every exhibitor will get to throw his

or her name into a lottery. When exhibitors have ten or more entries (in any part of the show), their names will be put in the lottery a second time. At the Friday night banquet six names will be drawn from that pool, and each will receive a cash prize of \$50!

That's only the beginning. Imagine the wild times you will have if your plants and designs are chosen for awards! Imagine how wild you'll be if your friends do well! Imagine all those beautiful violets! Pictures will be taken and be on display in our showroom jungle (maybe even with winners posing by the monkey!) Prizes will be awarded! The African Violet Magazine will write it up! Fame, fortune, and violets! Isn't that wild?

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.
Beaumont, TX 77702
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(800) 770-2872

Spring has come and gone and summer is upon us. My office is full of the beautiful new violets I purchased at the National Convention in Houston. There were so many to choose from it was hard to pick just a few.

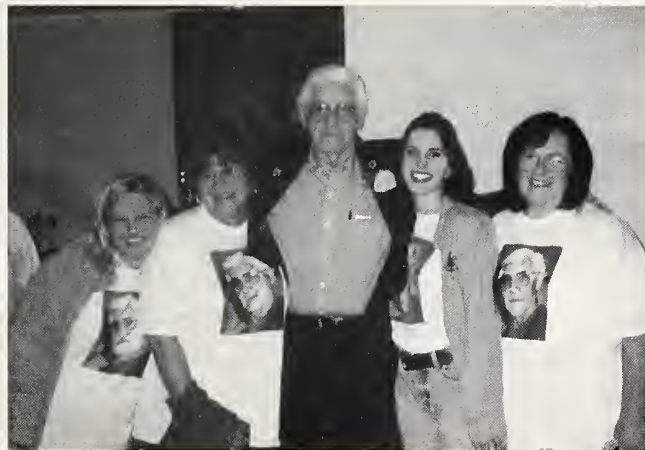
For those of you who made the trip to our office during the convention, we were so glad to have you here. The ladies of the **AVS of Beaumont** did a wonderful job hosting that tour. I want to thank all of them for their hard work. The cookies, cheese trays and other snacks were delicious. A special thanks to **Frankie Pletzer** who saw to all the details of getting ready for convention and who spent many hours at our office grooming and taking care of our violets. Many thanks to **Mary Neff** and **Lou Williford**, for the loving care you gave to our violets so they would look their best for our guests. The office never looked better. Thanks also to the President of the Beaumont club, **Ronna Smalley**, for taking on the task of repotting our entire collection of office violets.

With summer here, we need to start planning for the

September AVM supplement of Judges, Affiliates, and Commercial Growers. **Affiliates, please start sending those officer's changes now. If you have elected new officers but will not install them until later, we need your changes sent in by July 30th.** Please mail them to my attention at the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX. 77702. If we do not have your correct information by that date your club could be left out of the AVM. Please make sure all dues are paid on time so that your club will not be excluded.

Judges, if your membership is not current you will not be listed in the magazine. Please make sure your dues are paid on time. If your membership lapses between now and then, your name will be left off the judge's list.

We are in need of a new copy machine for the AVSA office. Ours is old and the copies it makes are of very poor quality. Please consider making a donation to the Booster Fund and designate them to be used for the new copier. Thanks.



*AVSA Office Staff shows their support for new President Bill Foster.
(L to R) Joanna McCown, Ruth Rumsey, Bill Foster, Tammi Vice, Jenny Daugereau.*

1999

AVSA Awards

Hall of Fame Award
To: Lyndon Lyon
Dolgeville, New York

AVSA presents the Hall of Fame Award to Lyndon Lyon. Mr. Lyon is one of the pioneers of our African violet.

He joined AVSA in 1948, when AVSA was in its second year. Over the years he has had numerous display tables, but in 1954 at the 8th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, Lyndon displayed one of his new hybrids. Everyone was in awe of the first double pink cultivar 'Pink Cloud'. Mr. Lyon has always been a pioneer in hybridizing, including some of the first miniatures and trailing African violets.

Mr. Lyon served on AVSA's Board of Directors and chaired the research committee from 1969 to 1971. Later he served as a member of that committee for over 20 years.

In 1956 Lyndon was awarded the Bronze Medal for the pink double blossomed African violets he had hybridized earlier. He has also hybridized and registered over some 800 varieties to date.

In 1984 Mr. Lyon was awarded an honorary life membership for his many devoted years of service to AVSA.

Bronze Medal Award
To: Don and Jean Ness
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

The prestigious Bronze Medal Award is presented to Don and Jean Ness of Midland Violets for their hybridizing achievements.

The Ness' have been hybridizing African violets for many years and started naming and registering their hybrids in 1986.

They had their first AVSA Commercial Display Table at the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, Texas, which earned them all blue ribbons. Don and Jean continued to have commercial display tables at every convention thereafter until 1996. In their second year of displaying, they won the second best commercial display table and the second best new cultivar with 'Glow Baby'. In the years to follow they always won a Rosette for their display tables. In 1992 they won best new introduction with 'Ness Firefly'. Over the years, Don and Jean have won many awards for their hybrids. Many of their introductions continue to appear on the Honor Roll of African Violets.

Continuing Service Award
To: David Buttram
Independence, Missouri

The Continuing Service Award is presented to David Buttram. Since 1985, David has visited and highlighted commercial members in his column, "Commercials ... A Closer Look" in the African Violet Magazine. Because of his continued service to AVSA and the commercial members he writes about, David is receiving this award.

David is a judge and a life member. He has been a commercial member of AVSA since 1969. He received an honorary one year membership award in 1991. David has served AVSA as a Director, chaired the Commercial Activities Committee and served on the Membership and Promotion, Publications, Building Site Selection, Typesetting and Printing and International Committees.

Locally, Mr. Buttram is a member of the African Violet Society of Greater Kansas City, Mid-America African Violet Society and Missouri Valley African Violet Council and a commercial member of the Dixie African Violet Society.

Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership
To: Barbara Elkin
Auburn, California

This year the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership is presented by AVSA to Barbara Elkin. In Barbara's case, she is honored for her leadership in several affiliates. It is rewarding to see someone so active in numerous clubs.

Barbara is currently President of Capitol African Violet Society. She has also served Capitol City African Violet Society as secretary and vice president. The Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society has been served by Barbara as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. She has held the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice president and president for the African Violet Society of South Bay. For the Nite Bloomers African Violet Society she has been secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. Barbara has served the Northern California Council of African Violet Society as recording secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. She has been the treasurer for the African Violet Society

Judges Council of Northern California.

Mrs. Elkin currently chairs the Vintage Violet Committee for AVSA and serves on the Awards Committee, Building and Maintenance Committee and Convention Committee. She has been a past Director and member of the Library Committee.

Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

**To: Esther Edwards Wells
Liberty, Missouri**

AVSA honors Esther Edwards Wells with an honorary Lifetime Membership Award for serving the society as it's President.

Esther has also served on AVSA's Executive Committee as it's first vice president, second vice president, and third vice president. She also chaired the Salary Committee, and served as a member of the Bylaws Committee, Publications Committee and the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee.

Esther has served as a director from 1987 to 1990, Awards Committee Chairman from 1989 to 1995, and as Convention Chairman for the 1989 Convention in Kansas City.

Locally Esther is a member of Mid-America African Violet Society, having served the society as president, first vice president, second vice president and treasurer. She is also a charter member of Missouri Valley African Violet Council having served as it's first secretary, bylaws chairman and parliamentarian. Esther is also a charter member of the Midwest African Violet Judges Council.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Jeani Hatfield
Lincoln, California**

AVSA presents to Jeani Hatfield an Honorary One Year Membership Award for serving as the show chairman for the 1998 Sacramento, California Convention.

Jeani has grown African violets and other gesneriads for over 25 years. She is a member of Capitol City African Violet Society having served as show chairman many times.

She is also a member of Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society having served the society as president and vice-president.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Barbara Elkin
Auburn, California**

The honorary One Year Membership Award is presented to Barbara Elkin for serving as the 1998 Sacramento,

California Convention Chairman.

Barbara is a long time member of AVSA, a senior judge and teacher. She also serves on the Awards Committee, Convention Committee, Building and Maintenance Fund Committee and chairs the Vintage Violet Committee.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: John Carter
Houston, Texas**

The AVSA presents John Carter with an Honorary One Year Membership Award for his service to the AVSA office staff in Beaumont.

John spends countless hours at the AVSA office giving the staff technical support for their new computer system. His vast knowledge has helped to make a smooth transition from the old to the new. John has also taken as active interest in the maintenance of the AVSA office. From changing a light bulb to solving a plumbing problem, John never hesitates. When something needs to be done - he does it.

The AVSA office staff knows that John Carter is only a phone call away, and he'll drive over from Houston whenever he is needed.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Ann Miller
Spring, Texas**

An Honorary One Year Membership Award is presented to Ann Miller for the time and the effort she has expended in her job as Convention Chairman. Ann has worked tirelessly to provide conventioners a comfortable hotel and exciting tours.

Locally, Mrs. Miller was a member of Sweet Vi-o-lets from 1982 to 1989 serving as the society's secretary, vice-president, president and show chairman.

In 1989 she moved to Ohio and joined a club in Springfield. Ann started a club in Dayton and served as the president until she moved back to Texas.

Tinari Award

**To: Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council
St. Louis, Missouri**

This year the Tinari Award for the most new memberships is presented to the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council. Their hard work and dedication to AVSA has earned them this award.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Have you ever gone to a dinner where several women have made the same recipe? Did you notice that each dish was different? The cooks may have used slightly different methods, or deviated from quality ingredients (or if they cook as poorly as Joyce, they substituted freely!) Sometimes each is good in its own way, but often there will be one that stands above all the others. The details make a difference!

That's true in growing African violets as well. You may believe that your friend grows exactly like you, but there are always variations in the details. One of you probably gets results that stand above the other's. What is the other grower doing that is so different??!!

Temperature

One subtle but key detail is keeping the violet growing area at relatively even temperatures, near 72 degrees Fahrenheit, with a slight drop at night, year around. When violets are grown significantly cooler than that, growth will be slower and more compact with deeper flower colors. When they are grown warmer, the growth will be quicker with a more open pattern and lighter flower colors. If you allow the temperatures to vary widely (more than ten degrees) during the 24-hour day, you will get the toughened look that discount violets often have. It comes as a result of growing in a greenhouse where temperatures

vary twenty or thirty degrees in a twenty-four-hour period. Temperature fluctuations also greatly increase the chances for fungal diseases.

It is easy to think that your temperatures don't change much, but if you use fluorescent lights, it will be warmer when they are on. If you try to save on heating or cooling costs, you may be allowing the air temperature to climb slightly higher or cool slightly more than plants really like. Don't think that if you can stand it, it won't hurt your violets.

Thermometers that measure the high and the low for the day can be helpful in determining how much temperature change there is.

It is also important to keep temperatures even from season to season. Failure to do so may result in "growth breaks" in the leaf pattern. This means that leaves grown in one season are a different size than those from the previous season. This unevenness is not as satisfying as the perfect rows of ever-larger leaves seen on the best-grown violets.

Potting Mix

You probably already know about the detail of using only top-notch potting soil. Finding the mix that works best with the other conditions in your growing area can be challenging. Once you have found a mix, stay with it! Soil components can vary greatly from one supplier to another,

so be careful about switching brands.

Even if you use the same mix as your friend, however, the potting technique can make a huge difference. Violet roots are very delicate and will not develop well in heavily packed soil. The grower who fills in around the roots with loose mix, never packing it down, will get healthier and more vigorous growth. If you are unsure, try pushing a finger into the root ball. If you can push all the way to the bottom with little resistance, the soil is loose enough. If you cannot push below the soil line, the mix is packed far too tightly, and plants would benefit from being transplanted into a looser mix.

Speaking of transplanting, more successful growers transplant at least once each year, and maybe more often if a "neck" becomes visible below the leaves above the soil.

Pots

There are several important details about pots that can affect results.

Most beginning growers assume that every time violets are repotted they must go into larger pots. In fact, each violet hybrid has a set genetic size for both its leaves and its roots. As a rule, a violet with the genetic ability to grow an overall leaf span twelve inches in diameter, will have a root ball that is only one-third that size, and a four inch pot is perfect. A plant that grows to eighteen inches in diameter will do best in a six-inch pot. Ideal pot size is one-third the diameter of the foliage.

At the same time, the roots will rarely go deeper than about four inches. So all pots, regardless of diameter, must be quite squatty. The goal is to have the roots fill the pot completely, creating a rootbound plant. When that is accomplished, violets will usually bloom freely.

Note also, each plant gets its own pot. If you want a decorative look of multiple violets in a container, group pots together. It is best to give each plant its own pot.

The design of pots can also affect root development. We have recently begun using pots that have bottoms with raised areas to allow air to move under the pot. Roots love air, and plants grown in these pots are stronger than those grown in pots with completely flat bottoms.

Decorative pots have their place, but top growers generally favor the humble plastic pot with a rolled edge to protect leaves that rest there. Also, flexible sides make it easier to lift violets out of plastic pots when repotting. Finally, constant water methods generally work best with plastic rather than clay pots. Once a violet is looking spectacular, no one looks at the pot anyway!

Even the color of the pot may be an important detail. Some growers believe that light should not reach the roots, as nature intended roots to grow in darkness. Therefore these growers prefer dark green pots or white pots that are lined with a dark color.

Fertilizer

Mastering fertilizer is a very important detail. First, you must be careful to use a quality fertilizer, recommended for violets. Growers have widely varying opinions on the best fertilizer formulation. As a general rule, if your violets are blooming well and your foliage isn't marred with fertilizer burn around the leaf edges, you have a good fertilizer for your situation. If that isn't true, you may need to change the rate of fertilizing or the brand and type.

Second, you must master the rate at which you apply fertilizer. It is so easy to be careless about measurements! Do not be tempted to use a little more or to overlap using two different types. Pay attention to the label directions and, if anything, use it at a slightly lower rate!

Finally, good growers are conscientious about leaching the soil in each pot occasionally. This is done to remove excess salts from the root ball, and is especially important if your plants draw most of their water up from the bottom of the pot (rather than getting it from the top). Leaching is done by pouring clear (unfertilized) water into the top of the pot and allowing it to run through the soil and out the bottom. Ideally this should be done every six weeks to two months.

One last note, if you have used the same fertilizer for years and never had a problem until now, be aware that some manufacturers have altered their formulation to use lower quality, less costly, ingredients. Once problems occur, it is wise to look into changing brands.

Water

Water may look like water, but it may be the most variable detail of all. Busy lifestyles may cause a grower to forget or put off watering. Even one day of water stress may have a marked detrimental effect on violets. If you tend to be irregular about watering, find an alternate system that ensures consistent moisture to your plants. On the opposite side, a violet should not be left standing in a saucer full of water for more than thirty minutes or so. Doing so may cause serious damage to roots and make your plants highly vulnerable to crown rot fungi.

Some water contains salts that damage plants; softened water, for example, must never be used to water violets. Some areas of the country have high salt content in the city water supplies. If your area has this problem, you must find an alternate source of water such as collecting fresh clean rain water. Also be aware that well water can have high levels of nitrates from fertilizer runoff. Salt damage begins by causing cells at the edge of the leaf to fail and progresses across the entire leaf. Long term exposure to salt may kill violets.

Water may vary in its pH levels as well. It is most desirable to use water with a neutral pH that is near 7. If that is not possible, you may have to buffer the soil mix to

counteract acidic or alkaline conditions. When pH is incorrect, plants cannot take up fertilizer. When violet leaves become increasingly yellowed even though fertilizer is being applied, it would be wise to check the soil pH. Some growers in our area have noticed that the water pH in the city water system varies from season to season forcing a sort of constant vigilance.

Chilling or heating roots can also have a negative effect on growth. Hot or cold water can destroy root hairs. This damage shows up on leaves as irregular patterns of white to yellow streaks. Use water that is the same temperature as the air so that the root temperature remains unchanged. This is most easily accomplished by allowing water to stand for several hours before applying to plants.

Humidity

Another very fine point of growing comes in maintaining levels of humidity that encourage blooming, but avoiding levels that allow fungus to become uncontrollable. If possible, maintain humidity around 50%. At that level, tiny buds will develop rather than drying up. Flowers will last and will have a larger size. In dry home atmospheres, open trays of water or a humidifier can be helpful.

Once humidity goes over 70%, however, fungus is likely to become a major problem. You also need to understand a plant's need to transpire (breathe off) moisture into the air. It acts as a sort of pump to bring water up through the roots. When violets are grown in extra high humidity, transpiration does not occur very efficiently. If water isn't being drawn up from the roots, neither is fertilizer! If you grow in an extremely humid area, a dehumidifier can be very helpful.

Good Light

Light is another key detail. Remember that no two windows are exactly the same. Windows vary by size, directional location, type of glass, window coverings, outdoor plants which alter the light, and reflective surfaces in the area. So many good growers find that they "lose their green thumb" when they move into a new home. The right window makes all the difference.

An ideal window must be fairly large, should not be overly shadowed or draped, and must not get hot when the sun is shining directly into the window. Nearby reflective surfaces (like another building or body of water) can increase the light in windows that might otherwise be insufficient.

Keeping the light evenly exposed to every leaf on your plant is another tiny detail. Window growers especially, must remember to turn pots regularly to avoid getting violets that lean to the side toward the incoming light.

Many violet growers prefer to control the light by using fluorescent lights. Even then, the details matter! It is best to use newer tubes (old ones light less brightly). The lights must be quite close to the leaves (within a foot or so) and on for up to fourteen hours a day. Note that the lights must be off for a period of time each day as well. Many types of fluorescent tubes will produce adequate light for violets, but some growers are quite fussy about the brand or spectrum of light in their tubes. It's a detail they think is important!

Another light detail concerns how plants are reacting to light. Plants which seem to reach upward should be moved to brighter spots. Plants that appear to be bleaching (leaves losing their rich green color) should be moved to slightly dimmer spots. You can increase or decrease the amount of light by lengthening or shortening the "on" time, or lowering or raising the fluorescent light fixture.

Paying Attention

Really good growers notice minuscule changes in each violet. This power of observation allows them to make corrections in growing conditions, to catch disease or pests in early stages, and to recognize the potential of really good violet hybrids. Often this is almost subconscious for them; they might not put their finger on what changed, but they know something is not the same.

Sometimes the changes are reactions to environmental conditions. In that case, violets should be relocated, repotted, or perhaps rejected. At the same time, it may be a tip-off that a change has occurred in the growing environment that has gone unnoticed. Perhaps there is a gas leak, or a light timer that has broken (leaving lights on for twenty-four hours), or a manufacturer who has changed a key ingredient in your soil components or fertilizer.

Sometimes the changes are the first hint that insects or fungi have invaded. Either of these unwelcome guests are much easier to get rid of if they are stopped before they begin to multiply. Moving insects may be hard to spot, but spilled pollen on flowers, white cottony masses on the foliage or in the soil, or tight twisted center leaves should set off your alarms. Fungus can take on several forms, but the most common seems to be the powdery white areas on leaves or flowers that are caused by powdery mildew.

Just Details

We once heard a joke about a top grower. "She's the type who looks at her watch and says, 'Oh my! It's time to add the eggshells!'" That grower won the national show one year. She never misses a detail if she can help it, and her plants reflect the attention. Pay attention to the big stuff, but don't forget the details. It can make all the difference.

Best Articles of 1998 Earn AVSA Certificates of Appreciation

by Jane Rexilius, Publications Committee Chairman

Each year the AVSA Board of Directors and members of the Publications Committee select the five best articles published during the previous year in the African Violet Magazine.

These winners were presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the annual AVSA Convention, as well as receiving a One Year membership to AVSA for a non-member.

Authors for the Best Articles of 1998, honored at the 1999 Houston Convention were:

Bob Green, Rockledge, FL - "Rhythm in Design"

David Buttram, Independence, MO - "The Name of the Game is the Name"

Ruth Goeke, Brenham, TX - "Natural Gardens"

Bev Promersberger, Monument, CO - "A Helping Hand into the Future"

Shirley Sanders, San Antonio, TX - "From Russia With Love"

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE AWARD

The Houston Convention has passed and what a great time we had! Thanks for all that "KING SIZED" hospitality y'all showed us!

Now is the time to get your awards in for the "WILD" convention in Omaha. I know that most affiliates are vacationing but you still can get an early start on the next convention by sending your awards now to:

Mrs. Linda L Golubski - *AVSA Awards Chairman*

1416 N.W. A Street • Blue Springs, Mo 64015

816-229-2051 after 6:00PM CDT • e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Please be sure your checks are made payable in U.S. funds to: **AVSA Convention Fund**. Be sure to include a contact name, address and phone number. When making a specific request for an award, please remember that AVSA now makes special awards for all the top winners.

Thank you very much for your continued support of AVSA conventions.

Entries Program Update

by Joe Bruns

The AVSA Show Entries program was used successfully at the AVSA Convention and Show to classify and enter over 800 exhibits. Since version 1.2.0 of the program was released in March, several improvements have been made. You can download the latest version (1.2.6 as of this writing) from the following web page: <http://www.flash.net/~jbruns/entries.htm>. The page also lists any changes which have been made to the program. This program will not run unless you have installed a previous version on your computer.

Please note that AVSA Show Entries will not run under Windows 3.1. You will need Windows 95 or Windows 98. Also, your show schedule cannot have any subclasses (e.g. 16a and 16b). The program does not process subclasses.

I would like to thank all those who helped with the testing phase of the program, especially Christel Collier (Florida), with whom I exchanged well over 100 e-mail messages, Lynn Lombard (California), and Ray Foreman (Ontario, Canada). Their suggestions were invaluable.

In Search of New Violets



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It is important that people who hybridize African violets keep excellent genetic records of their crosses and on the types of offspring the cross produced. While many traits in African violets are genetic dominants and are expressed and observed if present, other traits are genetic recessives and can't be detected by visual inspection of the plants. The only way to know if the parents carry genetic recessives is to examine the parents of the plants used in a cross, or in the offspring produced by a cross. Once a hidden recessive has been detected, the genetic records can record the information for use in planning future crosses. The first two questions in this month's column are illustrations of the problems caused by hidden genes.

Q: *I would like to do a cross of 'Tomorrow's Starlight' X 'Pueblo'. Does 'Tomorrow's Starlight' have any hidden recessive genes for pink or coral?*

A: 'Tomorrow's Starlight' is a raspberry-edged plant with the edge color in fuchsia or regular red. These colors are dominant to regular pink, or coral pink. Therefore, it cannot be determined by inspection if this plant has the recessives for pink or coral pink. Another possible way to tell if the recessives are present is to examine the parents of the plant. Since I hybridized 'Tomorrow's Starlight', I know that one of the parents has fuchsia raspberry edged flowers and that the other parent has blue flowers with a fuchsia raspberry edge. Since neither parent has pink or coral pink flowers we cannot know for certain if these recessives are present. The only way to determine if the recessives are present would be to make a test cross of 'Tomorrow's Starlight' with a pink, or coral pink flowered plant such as 'Pueblo'. If any coral colored (coral pink or coral red) offspring are produced, then 'Tomorrow's Starlight' has the recessive gene for coral. If any pink or coral pink offspring are produced, then

'Tomorrow's Starlight' carries the recessive for pink. If only fuchsia red offspring are produced, then 'Tomorrow's Starlight' has either the pink nor coral genes as a recessive.

Once the results of a test cross are known, keep the presence or absence of the recessive genes in your genetic records. This will, allow you to know how to use 'Tomorrow's Starlight' in making future crosses involving the recessive genes of pink or coral colors.

Q: *I recently crossed a double white flowered plant with 'Grand Master'. Out of 53 offspring, only one was similar to 'Grand Master' (dark purple with a raspberry edge). The other offspring showed white, pink and purple flowers. Many of the pink flowered plants showed raspberry edges and/or Geneva edges. Some of the purple flowered plants had Geneva edges. Do you have any explanation for these results?*

A: The variety of offspring in your cross shows some of the fun and excitement that can be produced when hybridizing African violets. The explanation of the results comes from looking at both the parents and the offspring, one trait or color at a time. Blue is a dominant to all other colors. Since you have many non-blue offspring, 'Grand Master' must carry a recessive for pink and possible white flowers. The presence of raspberry edges is easy to explain because 'Grand Master' has this dominant trait. Since not all of the offspring showed raspberry edges, 'Grand Master' must only have one copy of this gene. The presence of Geneva edges is a pleasant surprise. I don't believe 'Grand Master' has this dominant trait. Therefore, it must have been inherited from the white flowered parent. Of course, if you put a white edge on a white flower, you would not detect that the dominant gene for Geneva edges is present.

I would have predicted more than one offspring with the

coloration of 'Grand Master'. However, you might actually have several offspring that are blue with red edges. The red coloring of the edge is sometimes very subtle when combined with blue or purple flowers and doesn't always show clearly. If you look at your blue/purple offspring closely in bright sunlight, I would expect you'll find a few more with the raspberry edge trait. It sounds like you got some very nice plants and I hope you enjoy them.

Q: *Is the tendency for some plants to produce multiple crowns a genetic trait or is it caused by culture?*

A: The tendency for plants to form multiple crowns is both genetic and cultural. Cultivars that form multiple crowns on

a regular basis probably do so for genetic reasons. The Dates hybrid 'Nymph Fly', which has bustled foliage, is such an example. Since this is considered an undesired trait, many plants with this tendency have been selected against and are no longer available. In other cultivars, the tendency to form multiple crowns may well be caused as a response to a culture break. I've noticed that when some plants are shocked by bad or extra good growing conditions, they will form multiple crowns. Since multiple crowns are a show fault, select plants that don't seem to form multiple crowns easily, then grow them on consistent conditions to avoid culture breaks. This practice should help you prevent forming multiple crowns in potential show plants.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

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Thinking Small



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Howdy! (Listen, you can't spend a week in Texas without being affected in some way.) The Lone Star Violet Roundup, AVSA's 53rd annual convention, was superb! African violet lovers went home feeling very pleased after viewing the show room filled with more than 800 beautiful exhibits. Today we'll discuss the many beautiful miniature and semiminature entries, and some of the new introductions we can look forward to growing!

WINNERS ALL!

While the small ones had to yield to an extremely well grown standard for top honors, they still made their "small" contribution to the winners table. Kathy Lahti, who is well known and respected for her tremendous growing abilities, grew the 2nd Best African Violet in the Show 'Teen Sweetheart', a Hortense Pittman hybrid. This perfectly lovely semi mini held its delicate lavender blooms trimmed with a faint white edge well above the light green variegated foliage. It was part of Kathy's 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection which featured 'Definitely Darryl', a perennially reliable show plant, and 'Optimara Little Aztec', a semiminature with dark reddish purple semidouble blooms. Also gracing the winners table was a plant grown by me, 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', hybridized by Rahim Wilson, as the 3rd Best African Violet in Show. This miniature has absolutely perfect forming medium to dark green foliage, and covers itself with an abundance of light pink double blooms. It's a winner in every sense of the word, and as much as I hate to say, "I told you so," please refer to my column in the African Violet Magazine, November/December 1998, page 12, when I wrote, "Don't underestimate this simplistic description because this plant is fantastic!"

Bev Promersberger had another wonderful convention,

exhibiting the Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', 'Dean's Wildfire', and 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'. These semiminatures were beautifully grown and deserving of the award. I've reviewed the first two in previous columns, so I'll only discuss 'Dean's Wildfire', a beautiful semiminature with medium green Tommie-Lou variegation, loaded with single fuchsia blooms held well above the foliage. This plant was very striking and absolutely gorgeous.

TRULY SMALL!

Of special note in the small collections were Palma Trapp's collection of miniatures, 'Rob's Penny Ante' (white with dark blue-purple eye), 'Rob's Twinkle Pink' (medium pink semi doubles), and 'Texas Space Dust' (light pink singles atop perfect variegated foliage). All were very tiny plants, probably about 3" across, topped with an abundance of beautiful blooms. They give true meaning to the word "miniature." I'll repeat, 'Texas Space Dust', a Pittman hybrid, was seen throughout the show and is a cultivar well worth growing. Obviously many growers have exceptional luck with it!

It was also wonderful to see the return of Pat Tillman to exhibiting in national conventions. In 1989, when the national convention was in Kansas City, Pat (then Pat Champagne) entered more than 30 plants to take sweepstakes honors, all or most of which were small ones. I had just joined the local violet clubs, and was awed and amazed at the perfection of her exhibits which looked like ice cream scoops of blooms had been dumped on them. Her entries in Houston were nothing less than what she'd exhibited ten years ago, being tiny masterpieces: much like Palma's, they often measured no more than 3" across, with normal sized blooms literally covering the foliage. Her

small collection included the Pittman classic 'Precious Pink', 'Red Bandito', another Pittman cultivar that deserves wider recognition with its ruby-red single blooms atop perfectly forming very dark foliage, and 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'. Pat also won the award for the best Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Fluorite', with light lavender blooms, and 'Optimara Little Crystal' and 'Optimara Rose Quartz', two of the best of the Little Jewel cultivars. Pat, it's good to have you back!

Kathi Lahti took the 2nd Best Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Little Opal' and 'Optimara Little Ruby', while Linda Golubski took 3rd best with 'Optimara Little Amethyst', 'Optimara Little Pearl' and 'Optimara Rose Quartz'.

COMMERCIAL VETERANS

Darryl Hoover led the commercial winners with the Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection which included a perfectly grown 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Diamond' and 'Optimara Little Crystal'. All displayed beautifully symmetrical, well-grown foliage, and as a collection rivaled the best grown Holtkamp plants I've seen. Shirley Sanders had the 2nd Best Commercial Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal' that appeared to be all bloom, 'Optimara Rose Quartz', and 'Optimara Little Lapis'. Shirley has no problem loading the blooms on her plants! Olive Ma Robinson exhibited the 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection with semiminatures: 'Optimara Little Aztec', 'Optimara Little Shoshone', a light pink with darker pink eye, and 'Optimara Little Apache', a great semi mini with medium pink blooms with darker centers and very dark, red backed symmetrical growing foliage. Welcome to exhibiting in national conventions, Olive. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

The best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection went to Shirley Sanders with 'Aca's Pink Pet', a delightful pink blossomed miniature with dark symmetrical foliage that is gaining favor with many growers, 'Optimara Rose Quartz' and 'Texas Space Dust'. Olive Ma Robinson exhibited the 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Optimara Little Blackfoot', a delightful semi mini with very dark purple red single blooms on very dark foliage, 'Optimara Little Cheyenne' which has blooms of blue with a white center and can be a little unstable, and the very beautiful hybrid by Sidney Sorano, 'Classic Rock'. This ethereal cultivar has lovely pastel lavender blooms with a darker eye atop light green and white variegated foliage.

Ken Froboese showed the 3rd best specimen plant in the commercial section with another Pittman classic 'Gleeful Elf'. This miniature has been written about a number of times, and deserves to be grown by everyone simply for its abundantly produced masses of blooms. It simply loves to grow and to bloom! Also in the specimen

classes, Olive Ma Robinson exhibited a truly striking 'Orchard's Nite Lite' which has very dark, almost black foliage and nicely contrasting pure white blooms. It's another Rahim Wilson cultivar that is most deserving of wide recognition.

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Finally, to the Best Commercial Display Table shown by Ralph Robinson of Rob's Mini-o-lets. Rob took home honors for the Best and 2nd Best New Introductions with 'Rob's Hallucination' and 'Rob's Hand Puppet', respectively. 'Rob's Hallucination' is a very unusual semiminature because of its unusual Champion variegated foliage of dark green, tan, and light green. Its pointed leaves layer beautifully and are consistently symmetrical. The blooms are a lovely dark blue with pink puff fantasy. With all that color it's quite a "wild" looking plant and is well worth growing! 'Rob's Hand Puppet' is a delightful pastel blossomed semiminature chimera. The delicate blooms of pink with pastel blue, almost lavender center stripes are quite dainty and not of particularly great substance, but they are sticktight and are produced so plentifully it's not a problem. It is also very good about coming back into bloom quickly. The plant is wonderful as well, with delightfully hairy, medium green symmetrical foliage.

Other plants on his table worth noting were: 'Rob's Ice Ripples', a miniature with white with blue edge blooms on wavy green foliage that is very attractive and fresh looking. 'Rob's Rinky Dink' is a red blossomed miniature with very nice, pointed, dark foliage, excellent for showing. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' was the best exhibit on his table. This 1997 introduction is a very attractive, creamy pink blossomed variety atop nicely overlapping Champion variegated foliage of yellow and green, often with a touch of pink. Many growers have taken to this plant and indeed, Rob believes it is one of his best plants ever. 'Rob's Fuzzy Navel' has a beautifully ruffled light pink semi double bloom reminiscent of 'Rob's Perfect Peach', only much prettier. 'Rob's Bamboozle' has a rosy pink pansy bloom with a darker eye and appears to be great for show! 'Rob's Oopsie Daisy' can only be described as "cute." It is a semiminature chimera with pink and white blooms atop Champion variegated foliage. My favorite on the table was 'Rob's Outer Orbit', a beautiful dark-blue single pansy with pink puff fantasy and a fine white edge, borne on semiminature variegated foliage. It is a very attractive cultivar, and is more refined compared to 'Rob's Hallucination'.

NEXT TIME

We'll "sweat the small stuff" in the September column when we examine the finer points of miniature and semiminature culture. Have a great summer, keep the violets watered, and we'll talk soon.



Dale Martens

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The Houston AVSA Convention had an amazing display of 110 entries in the amateur classes. The winners were:

Class 51. Miniatures: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Dale Martens**

Class 52. Tuberous-rooted: *Sinningia kautskyi* x *S. hirsuta*, **Dolores Gibbs**

Class 53. Scaly-rhizome: *Gloxinia 'Chic'*, **Dale Martens**

Class 54. Fibrous rooted: *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* (labeled as *Columnnea 'Tigridia'*), **Fred Packer**

Class 55. Foliage class: *Episcia 'Pink Panther,' Janet Castiglione*

Best Gesneriad: **Fred Packer's** *xColtrichantha 'Midget'*

2nd Best Gesneriad: **Pat Richards' Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'**

3rd Best Gesneriad: **Dale Martens' Sinningia pusilla**

Best Gesneriad Commercial: Grown by **Dave Harris** of Dave's Violets, *Streptocarpus 'Blue Thunder'*

Gesneriad growers Fay Wagman and Maryjane Evans pointed out to me that Fred Packer's *Columnnea 'Tigridia'* is actually *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* (*Trichantha minor* x *Columnnea 'Dart'*). So that's how it'll be written in this column.

Margery Clive (formerly the African Queen commercial grower), Connie Leifeste, Chris Orcholski and I entered our own new hybrids. Margery's *Sinningia 'Girlfren'* is a calyx double. Connie's new hybrids included her delightful pink miniature *Sinningia 'Cow Patty.'* She also entered a fragrant *Sinningia speciosa 'Rosemarie'* grown by her from seed from my fragrant *S. speciosa 'Touch of Spice.'* Chris Orcholski from Southern California has been hybridizing *Streptocarpus* and entered a pretty one she named *Streptocarpus 'Mini Mary'* but it's not a miniature. I entered my hybrids *Smithiantha 'Texas Campfire Embers'* and an *Achimenes* which should have read *xAchimenantha* (my fault) since it was a cross between *Achimenes 'Tiny Blue'*

and *xAchimenantha 'Inferno.'* It's a compact plant with red-purple blossoms. Nothing extraordinary, but the size is good at 7" tall with one early-stage pinching.

Pat Richards told me her 2nd Best Gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'* had 65+ blossoms right before leaving by car from Kansas. She sure can grow that plant! It happens to be my hybrid (*S. 'Pegasus'* x *S. kentaniensis*).

Dolores Gibbs of Texas entered a very large and trailing *Nautilocalyx porphyrostachys* in full bloom. The blossoms are bright orange with yellow in the tube and with a black edge. Luckily the judges took a close look and saw the black coloration wasn't the blossoms beginning to die!

I asked Fred Packer about his prize winning Best Gesneriad and he reported, "My *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* has been in continuous bloom since I brought it home from Lyons Greenhouses back in September 1998. Granted, there are usually much less blooms at any particular time, but the plant is always in bloom. Sidney suggested I try it just as a test. I picked up the other baskets at the same time. I fell for *Columnnea 'Julia'* in Sacramento, grown beautifully by Lynn Lombard, and decided right there to try several of the columnneas as show plants. Paul Sorano (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) pots up baskets using Pro Mix and lightens up the soil mix using an extra 20% perlite. I use a rotating fertilizer schedule, switching between Peters 20-20-20, and Schultz, and any other reputable fertilizer made for African violets. I used one-quarter strength of whatever the recommendations were on the fertilizer package. I fertilized with every other watering, watering from the top only. I confess to having used "Bloom Booster" in January, just as an experiment. These conditions are what worked for me for this plant."

Some questions came up about gesneriad judging:

1) My plant has buds with color and no open blossoms. Should I enter it in the Gesneriads in Bloom class or should I
(continued on bottom of page 17)

Vintage Violets



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Growing African violets for many years makes you deft at treating plant problems and diseases. Thrips, mite, mealys, mildew and root-rot to name just a few. You can treat them with all types of medical miracles. Two days ago my computer developed a disease, called a virus. At this point, I would like to apologize to anyone that caught my malady through my E-Mail correspondence. I believe my computer is now cured. I have sprayed it with Avid and Kelthane solutions and its hard drive is sitting in Marathon crystals. Its memory is still smoking. With any luck, diligence and Norton Systems will keep me forever

clean. The airways are full of warnings about these problems. Beware of those attachments, they can be deadly!!!

The response to the March 1999 AVM Most Wanted List was tremendous. Thank you all for reading and responding to all those requests. Our Master List of Vintage Violets is now 75 pages long! AVSA has the nicest, kindest and sharing members of any society.

As always, when someone is kind enough to share something with you, please return the postage, asked for or not.

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

Ablaze	Blue Fling	Chapel Boy	Deleon Posie	Fashion Frenzy	Gay Coquette	Krista Lynn	Lilac Lassy	LuLu Belle
Albino Blue Eyes	Blue LeFleur	Chiffon Wasp	Diana Ross	Fire Buggy	Gay Miss	Kuhl's Parnassus	Linda's Love	Madison's
Andy Griffiths	Blue Morning	Coconut Fluff	Donna Lynn	First Recital	Gay Paree	Kuhl's Pink	Little Boy Blue	Whisper Blue
Apple Valley	Glory	Colonial Pink	Double Orchid	Flamingo Girl	Green Hornet	Treasure	Little Busy Bee	Mammy
Aunt Clara	Blue Parade	Comanche	Girl	Frathel's Debbie	Grenadier	Kuhl's Roundelay	Little Geneva	Martha
Azure Trinket	Blue Smoke	Maid	Double Pink	Frathel's Most	Gypsy Charm	Kuhl's Trale Rose	Princess	My Darling
Baby Girl Spoon	Blue Sprite	Conchita	Cameo	Precious	Gypsy Trail	Lady Aura	Little Joan	Mysterium
Baby Helen	Blue Wren	Coral Satin	Double Take	Fredette's Elita	Hawaiian Eye	Laredo Lad	Little Lois	Old Dominion
Baby Lace	Bonnie Lassie	Cornucopia	Double Velvet	Fried Blue	Helen Van Pelt	Last Snow	Little Love	Sparkler
Benjamin	Button Trinket	Crimson Glow	Girl	Fried Orchid	Wilson	Lavender Blue	Little LuLu	Peach Ruffles
Bergen Strawberry	Buttons & Bows	Dagmar	Double Wild	Rosette	Jo's Velveteen	Lavender Elfin Girl	Little Miss Texas	Silver Champion
Sherbet	Camellia	Dainty Maid	Rosa	G. G. Blue	Kansas City	Leawalla	Little Ruddy	Wine and Roses
Black Velvet	Care Deeply	Deep Sea	Edna Haugh	Empress	Chief	LeBaron	Little Seabird	
Blue Albino Girl	Casu Small	Treasure	Fantasy Double	G. G. Fuchsia	Kansas City	Levittown	Lola	
Blue Buttercup	Cerise	Deleon Pixie	Ann	Bride	Royal	Liberty Belle	Love Song	

(continued from page 16)

cut off those buds and enter it in the Gesneriads Grown for Foliage class?

Answer: It seems you have no choice but to remove the buds with color and enter it in the Foliage class. Although the AVSA Handbook doesn't address this issue, the AGGS Flower Show Manual states, "Buds showing color count toward Quantity of Bloom, as do colorful berries. A plant must have SOME OPEN FLOWERS to qualify for the section Gesneriads in Bloom." Therefore, the plant without some open flowers, but with buds showing color, would NOT QUALIFY for the section of Gesneriads in Bloom. Plants with colored buds would not qualify for the Foliage class.

2) A couple of clear containers at the AVSA convention were filled with multiple plantings of gesneriads. Some of the

plants and blossoms were pushing against the sides and tops of the clear containers. Is it OK to have gesneriads touching the sides and tops of containers?

Answer: With containers jam-packed with plants, it is too difficult for the judges to ascertain whether the gesneriads inside the containers had reached their full potential. There isn't a problem with a "mild" touching of the sides and top of a clear container or terrarium, but when the leaves and/or blossoms are smashed and turned or distorted while touching the container, then that's an area of points deducted under "Condition" since this could have been remedied on or near show time. Judges' comments could suggest that plants crushed or distorted against the container should have been removed, allowing the rest of the plants to display their full potential.

Question Box



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The most often asked questions I receive are related to root rot which becomes stem rot. Then the natural progression is that the outer row of leaves collapse and the process continues until the plant is lost. Almost always the grower relates a story of repotting plants and then of the plants demise. Do ask yourself these questions when repotting: Am I increasing the volume of soil to such an extent that the roots will be damaged from the extra moisture in the new pot? (The volume of the soil in the space involved coupled with your usual watering practices can produce a lethal condition when too much soil is employed in repotting) Are you moving from a shallow pot to a much deeper pot? Are the holes or style of potting affording more or less drainage? Is this mix the same as the plant is presently potted in or is it heavier? Do I have too much room in the new pot either around the plant or in the bottom of the pot? Did I remove all damaged, fading, undersized, or baby leaves before repotting? These plants can be saved if you watch all newly repotted plants. At the first sign of distress - wilted look - outer leaves beginning to curl under - or plant not starting to grow on quickly, remove from pot and check for damaged or dark roots. Remove all dead and dying roots, check stem, cut away all dead or rotted parts, leave only viable healthy looking tissue and repot into a small pot in sterile mix (perlite and vermiculite). A plastic cover helps aid the growth of roots if most or all of the roots were removed during this procedure When new growth is evident, repot in regular soil in same size pot. Only when the plant has reached the point of being three times (one third of plant on one side, one third across pot, one third on other side) the size of the pot will it be safe to pot on. Don't ever rush to increase the size of the pot. This is a big temptation when you have new plants and want mature plants in full bloom. Patience is the key word with African violets.

QUESTION: *I pot with a small layer of perlite on the bottom of each pot. I feel that this promotes drainage. My friend disagrees with me and thinks this is a waste of perlite, Her reasoning is, if the potting medium is correct this layer is not needed.*

ANSWER: I use "Texas Style" which is based on the use of a good layer of perlite in the bottom of the pot as a regular potting regime. This is based on the growing conditions where the plants occur naturally. They are found in limestone rock depressions (a very porous substance) growing in the humus debris that collect over time. I'm not sure why your friend is saving the soil mix as opposed to perlite, as I find perlite much less expensive and use more than a small layer in each of my pots. Perhaps she is unaware there is a natural gas exchange taking place in the spacy environment of the perlite and if you were to slip your plant out of the pot she would see the best root growth (nice vigorous white roots) covering the perlite. If using soil alone is done to save one step in the potting procedure and she is able to grow outstanding plants with this method she is not wrong, but if your preference is to use the perlite, ignore comments that are not applicable to your growing style.

QUESTION: *The roots of one of my violets have begun to grow from the holes in the bottom of the pot. I "mold potted" just three months ago. Should I repot again so soon? This plant is vigorous and full of bloom. (Note, "mold potting" is using a pot of the same size the plant is in to make a mold in the new pot. Add the mix around the old size pot pressing slightly so it will hold it's shape then drop the plant into the formed depression.)*

ANSWER: What are your goals for this plant? There is no doubt this plant is growing well and is producing what you want in an African violet, a vigorous blooming plant. Repotting now would entail removal of all the bloom and

unless you are planning to show at a particular time I would want to enjoy the plant for a few weeks. If you do have a show date and are bringing it along to be a show winner, it is certainly telling you it's ready to be repotted.

QUESTION: *I've noticed in various growers catalogues an absence of "Coral" colored minis. Is this because none have been developed as yet, or simply a difference in adjectives?*

ANSWER: Thinking back over what I had seen at shows and for sale at the conventions I couldn't recall a single coral mini. With help from our MVL Chairman, Lynn Lombard, who did an actual search of the African violet computer program, "First Class," with a program called "Lookfor", she was unable to find any coral minis. Personally I'm very fond of corals and have only found a few for my collection, but all are standards and border on being large standards which would not be useful in working toward a small coral plant.

QUESTION: *I planted a "mother" leaf and to my surprise, the babies grew up under the leaf rather than in front of it. Is there something wrong with them?*

ANSWER: No, the babies just grew where they could. The babies grow all the way around the "callous" of the leaf. This is the area on the base of the leaf that swells and is like a ridge. For this reason many people cut the leaf at a slant with the largest area facing up in front of the leaf. Then when the babies start to grow, they are in front of the leaf and have a better chance at good light. You can also lean the leaf so all of the base is in a better position for the babies to grow well.

QUESTION: *Is it good to use a blossom booster? If so, how often?*

ANSWER: This is a specialized fertilizer to promote bloom and most growers use it to bring their plants to best and most bloom, by applying it at eight and seven weeks prior to show. I have also heard of people using it for a particular group of plants but do not have the particulars of the results. Personally I only use it to get outstanding blooms for a show. This is not a balanced fertilizer and would only use it as a supplement.

QUESTION: *My once lovely trailer has a couple of long, unsightly necks without a single leaf to be seen! What can I do?*

ANSWER: If you want to play with the plant and give it some time, you can repot to new soil with plenty of top area in a shallow pot and try the Japanese system for trailers. It has been described in detail in past issues of the AVM. Most growers will start new plants with the tip cuttings and since they do grow fairly quickly you should have several of your favorite trailer in no time, with enough to share with friends.

QUESTION: *My local club would not let me enter a plant in the show because I didn't know the name of the plant. I bought it at the super market, and have raised it to be a lovely specimen covered with flowers. I was so disappointed. There was no label and I had no way of knowing the name. My area has very few sources for African violets. What could I have done to find out the name of this lovely plant?*

ANSWER: It's a shame that you were not able to show your plant, but one reason many hobbyists are very careful to buy only named varieties is so they can show them. The rule is: it must be a named variety, listed in the MVL or appearing on a hybridizers list in order to be entered in a show. Did you make a search of the MVL and descriptions in growers catalogues? You have had great pleasure from the plant already and I'm sure you can enjoy it for many years to come. It's even possible that you might attend a show or convention and spot the plant and learn its name, however many of the plants for sale in markets and nurseries are not named.

QUESTION: *Why don't more people use kitty flea collars to rid their plants of thrips and other pests? I've read a couple of references to them in the AVM, but rarely hear folks mention them. I know from experience that they work wonderfully!*

ANSWER: Perhaps they aren't adventurous or just haven't had a chance to try this method of pest control. Thank you very much for sharing your experience.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

What do the NPK numbers mean...

First number represents the percentage of nitrogen (N). It is generally stated that nitrogen promotes leaf growth.

Middle number represents the percentage of phosphorus (P) in the fertilizer. Phosphorus promotes flowering.

Third number represents the percentage of potassium (K) which promotes root growth.



Reprinted from
"An Introduction to
Gesneriads - African Violets
and their Relatives"

by John Beaulieu

ORIGINALITY IN SHOW SCHEDULES

by Ralph Breden • Rodondo Beach, CA

A significant amount of joy in my judging African violet shows is derived from the affiliate show schedules, particularly in the design division. It is quite interesting to see the various interpretations of given class titles and descriptions.

Having reviewed schedules from affiliates, country wide, as library committee chairman, I found a great diversion of schedule ideas - some appeared to use the sample schedule form found in the Handbook; others displayed unique presentations.

The theme of the show usually dictates the degree of originality that can be exhibited. In choosing a theme try to visualize what can be done effectively in the design division. If the subject is broad enough the classes in the horticultural division may also have suggestive titles.

An example of this was achieved in one of our local affiliates show schedule. The theme of the show was Violet Fashions. The collection classes were titled "Three Piece Ensemble". "Double Breasted Suit - Solid" identified standard solid color foliage, semi double/double blossoms. The same identifier for variegates used the word "Tweed" instead of "Solid". "Mini skirt" and "Midi Skirt" took care of the miniatures and semiminiatures.

The Specimen Plants section including species, seedlings

and unusual container received the title of "Casual Wear". The Other Gesneriad section was distinguished as "Unmentionables".

The design division section bore titles - "Designer Boots" "Military Dress" and "Distinctive Styles".

The theme of one show that I had the privilege of helping to judge was Violets Invade the Mall. This theme was carried out by such section/class titles as "Foods": "The Candy Shop", "Health Foods", "Pretzel Shop", "Snack Shop" and "Soup Kitchen"; "Service Stores": "Shoe Repair", "Optometrist"; "Speciality Stores": "Sporting Goods", "The Pet Shop" and "Flower Shop".

Another theme I enjoyed was Yellow Brick Road. The Design division included class titles of "Along the Brick Road", "The Emerald City", "Dorothy's Friends" and "Cyclone".

The Dearly Beloved theme of a

show I assisted in judging, used these

Design section titles: "How Do I Love Thee, Let Me Count The Ways", and "Photographic Memories". Class titles included: "The Brides Bouquet", "A Toast", "With This Ring", "Something Old, Something New", "A Garden Wedding", and "Honeymoon Fantasies".

(continued on bottom of next page)

In Memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.



L.T. and Yvonne attended their first African Violet Convention in Austin, TX. They continued to attend the yearly conventions for the next 22 years with exception of the Sacramento Convention. At first their joy was to meet all the important people of AVSA - Anne Tinari, Mary Boland, Ann Richardson, Frances Young, Gladys Hudnuill, and many, many others. However, besides all the "important ones", L.T. also loved to see the many people who made AVSA what it is. Everyone always waited for his big "hello" hug.

On March 20, 1975, L.T. became a charter member of his local violet club - Atchafalaya Violet Society. Through the years he held almost every office in the club. Talking about violets was his pleasure, as was giving workshops to other violet clubs, garden clubs, Knights of Columbus, and gesneriad societies. Spreading the word made him happy. In order to help get new judges, L.T. taught judging schools in several states.

A member of Dixie AVS, he was also a charter member of the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and growers and served as charter secretary for two consecutive terms.

In appreciation for his service as President of AVSA, L.T. was presented the Honorary Life Membership Award. Since becoming a member in 1973, L.T. served AVSA in many ways. He had been a teacher since 1983, and has also served as a Director, Chairman of the Library Committee, as was a member of the Executive Committee since 1989 and finally became President of AVSA in 1995.

(continued from page 20)

In one of our affiliate shows we selected the theme Violets in Concert. Our design division, emphasizing the musical theme, utilized class title "Grand Canyon Suite" for terrarium class and "Pastoral Symphony" for dish garden. The Interpretive Flower Arrangement section was titled "Impromptu", with respective class titles, "Waltz of the Flowers", "Rhapsody in Blue", "Minute Waltz" and "The Age of Aquarius".

One of our South Coast African Violet Society's most discussed theme was Violet Advertisements. The schedule cover adapted well known advertisement maxims to African violets: "I'd Walk a Mile for a Violet", "Things go Better with Violets", "Violets Are Our Most Important Product", "Good to the Last Violet".

These are a few that were utilized. Our design schedule was enhanced with the "Burma Shave Road Sign Motif".

The Interpretive Plant Arrangement class exhibitor was guided by:

Interpretive Arrangement,
Show your skill
Must have the plant
To fill the bill
AFRICAN VIOLET

Although violets were a large part of his life, L.T. gave his time and talents to his community. He worked for years for the schools his five children attended. It may have been president of the Parents Club, driving bands to ball games or running concession stands during football games. The standing joke was he attended every game his sons played in, but never saw a play.

Two of L.T.'s pet projects were the Public Library and the Community Concert Association in Morgan City. Being a member of the Library Board for 30 years, he supported efforts to increase the number of library users and the size of the collection and range of services. As a charter member of the Community Concert board he saw the membership grow through the years and was able to help bring to the community many talented artists.

A major part of L.T.'s life was his church and his family. Through the years he served Sacred Heart Catholic Church in a variety of capacities. He was very proud of his five children, Pauline Fulda, Dorothy Ulrich, Tommy Ozio, Paul Ozio, and Teresa Dilllenkoffer. He enjoyed seeing his family grow to include five lovely granddaughters and five fine grandsons.

Yvonne said L.T. was remembered by his many friends around the country, and she was most grateful for the many wishes of sympathy and support. These gave her much comfort.

Another guide line read:

Water, water
In some glass
Flowers swimming
In this class
AFRICAN VIOLETS

You guessed it, The Under Water Flower Arrangement!

One of the more challenging classes in a Design Division appeared in the National Show schedule for the Convention In Los Angeles, 1965.

The class titled "Improvisation" in the Flower Arrangement section called for each exhibitor to create a design from an identical kit provided by host. The kit included the container, fresh cut material and African violet blossoms. Results were exciting.

Good insurance for innovative ideas in constructing your designs is to write the design schedule. Give the prospective exhibitors an added challenge and the judges added pleasure.

At the Lone Sta



*First Lady, Paula, and
AVSA President Bill Foster*



Gerri Goins



Sandy Sanders & Sundown Pittman



Pat Hancock



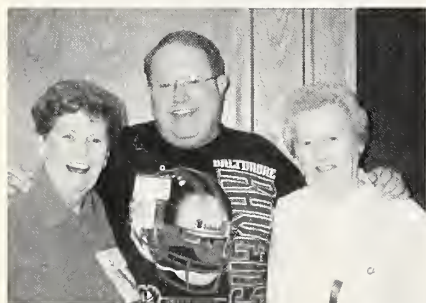
*New Board Members Helen Blanton &
Georgette Jolivette*



Barbara Elkin & Douglas Gregory



*Paul Sorano with plaque honoring
his grandfather, Lyndon Lyon,
AVSA Hall of Fame Member*



Joan Halford, Gary Gordon, Ruth Warren



Margery Clive & Carolyn Shinn



Pat Sutton & Friend



Dorothy Townsend & Jenny Daugereau



*Edna Rourke, Charles Wells, Jackie Jones and
Lynn Lombard demonstrate being "affiliate fit"*

Violet Round-up



Doris Weaver



Ruth Goeke, Judith Carter, Jane Rexilius



Roxanne



*Bill Edwards, Moleen Kanewischer, Bebe Edwards,
Fred Packer, Jenny Daugereau,
Paul Sorano, Winston and Laurel Goretsky*



Judy & John Carter



Dave Harris



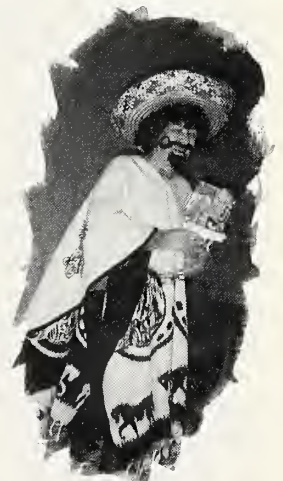
Don Geiss



Fred Packer



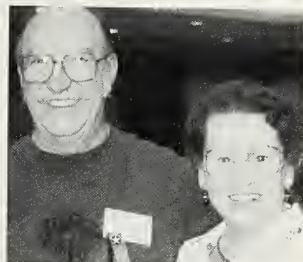
Jack Wilson & Al Armstrong



*Frito Bandito
aka
Bev Promersberger*



Jeanne Steiger & Elizabeth Glazebrook



Bill Paauwe & Shirley Sanders



Olive Ma Robinson

At the Lone Star Violet Round-up



First Lady, Paula, and
AVSA President Bill Foster



Gerri Goins



Sandy Sanders & Sundown Pittman



Pat Hancock



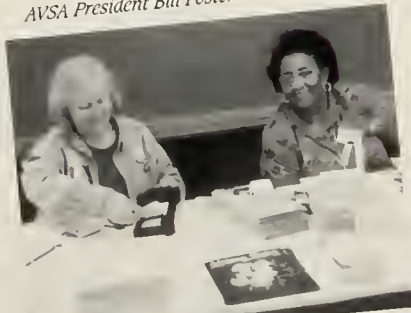
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Paul Sorano with plaque honoring
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Bill Edwards, Moleen Kanewischer, Bebe Edwards,
Fred Packer, Jenny Daugereau,
Paul Sorano, Winston and Laurel Goretsky



Judy & John Carter



Dave Harris



Joan Halford, Gary Gordon, Ruth Warren



Margery Clive & Carolyn Shinn



Pat Sutton & Friend



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Fruto Bandito
aka
Bev Promersberger



Dorothy Townsend & Jenny Daugereau



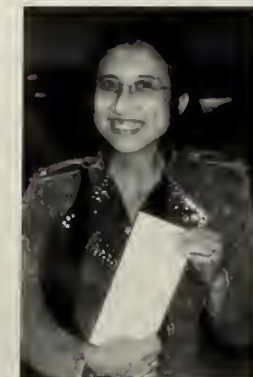
Edna Rourke, Charles Wells, Jackie Jones and
Lynn Lombard demonstrate being "affiliate fit"



Jeanne Steiger & Elizabeth Glazebrook



Bill Paauwe & Shirley Sanders



Olive Ma Robinson



WICK WATERING

Probably more African violets die from over watering than from any other cause. Violets should be watered when the potting mix dries out rather than on a regular schedule. One method used by many growers to ensure proper watering is "wicking" the plant.

Water has a natural tendency to move from the area of greatest to that of lesser concentration. By providing a highway, water moves easily from its source to the roots of the plant.

This method offers several advantages: The plant takes up water as it needs it, you reduce the risk of over watering, and you may also add fertilizer directly to the water. The plant will absorb nutrients from the fertilizer in the same manner. The "wick" method saves the grower time. Depending upon the size of your water reservoirs, you may leave your plants for a prolonged period of time knowing that while you are absent your plants can "water" themselves.

Select a good, porous soilless potting mix. One to two-parts sphagnum peat moss to one-part perlite and one-part vermiculite with enough dolomite lime (to maintain the acidity of the mix between pH 6.0 and 7.0) is a good basic recipe. Many commercial mixes developed specifically for African violets fulfill this criteria and achieve desirable growing results.

Slightly moisten the mix and pasteurize the soil. Place it in a covered container and bake it at 120 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes.

Next choose a wick from any type of synthetic cord. Selection of the correct size wick is dependent upon the size of the plant. Miniature violets, for example, may only need a small, one-ply wick. A standard size violet, on the other hand, in a 3-3 1/2" diameter pot may need a 3-ply wick.

Cut a piece of wick 4-5" long. Soak it in warm water with one drop of dish washing liquid. You may also choose to add a few drops of commercial algaecide. The growth of algae on the wick, the potting mix, water in reservoir, pot or reservoir container can hinder the movement of water from the container to the root system of the plant.

When the wick is thoroughly wet, select a pot that is approximately 1/3 the diameter of your plant. A 10" diameter plant, for example, should be potted in a 3 - 3 1/2" diameter pot. African violets grow best when the root system is "snug" in a pot, but not tightly compacted. Potting mix should always be loosely added around the root ball to create adequate air in the pot.

Take the wet wick and bring it up through one hole and across the bottom of the pot. Many growers then find it advantageous to add a shallow lay of perlite on top of the wick. This is believed to stimulate the "downward," rather than "sideways," growth of the roots.

You may make a water reservoir from any clean plastic refrigerator container, such as a margarine container. Cut two holes opposite one another in the lid. One is for the wick, and the other is for air. The pressure of the air pushing on the surface of the water in the reservoir assists in the "transportation" process.

Fill the container with room temperature water with a weak fertilizer solution. Generally 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer dissolved in 1 gallon of water is adequate. There are many good fertilizers made specifically for African violets. Read the contents label. You will want to choose a fertilizer with a low to no nitrate urea content. This compound, as it builds up in the potting mix, creates hard salts which effect the pH of the potting mix. Growth may become stunted. The plant may not bloom well. The foliage may also brown around the edges.

Place the free end of the wick through one of the holes in the lid of the container. Be sure that the wick is always submerged in water. If the wick dries out, it will no longer transport water.

Get yourself on a regular schedule for "housekeeping". Keep the area around your plant collection clean. Check the reservoirs periodically for the build up of potting mix debris, pest infestations or algae. Decaying blossoms and debris attract insect infestations. Early detection of a potential problem may save you from having to spray with a pesticide later. You might choose, for example, to keep a few extra, clean reservoirs on hand so that you can easily change out a dirty one. Repot on a timely schedule. Miniature African violets may need to be repotted more frequently.

Checking your plants on a regular schedule also alerts you to any problems with fertilization. If you notice hard, brittle foliage or brown edges, reduce the amount of fertilizer you are using. If your plants have light colored foliage and little to no bloom, then increase the amount of fertilizer.

Each growing environment is different. As you work with your plants, you will become the "best authority" regarding your collection. When trying a new idea, first experiment with one or two plants to see if the method works well for you.

The above information is taken from several articles written by growers published in AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.



© 1998

What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Annual Library Message



Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

We have the good and the unpleasant to report this year. A new design program is now available to rent: "Designing for Show". We hope this will be both entertaining and informative. It does not have a cassette so you will be able to spend as much time assessing the designs as your members wish.

On the unpleasant side, there will not be a new introductions program this year. Our hybridizers are growers, not necessarily photographers, so many find it not easy to

submit slides. We will accept not receiving pictures - just don't halt that HYBRIDIZING.

Available now is "Houston Beauties - 1999" This program of the Houston convention show should be on your "to order" list.

This completes my second term as Library Chairman and I am turning over the duties. It has been a pleasant task and I look forward to helping out at future conventions without the responsibilities.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request (1) **Name of affiliate**, (2) **Name of person ordering and person's membership number**, (3) **Shipping address**, (4) **Name of slide program or packet**, (5) **Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired**, (6) **Date to be shown**. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS - VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
AVSA OFFICE
2375 NORTH STREET
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00 and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

- 183L **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 190L **"WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998"** (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.
- 193L **"HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999"** (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.

New

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 191L **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 140L **"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 147L **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 150L **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple-crowned plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L **"THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L **"TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".
- 194L **"DESIGNING FOR SHOW"** (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

New

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".

- 178L **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L **30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

VIDEO TAPES

- 173L **"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L **"HUNGRY ATHLETES"** - 1997 Presentation at Atlanta convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.
- 185L **"GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- 186L **"TEACHING THE TRICKS"** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- 188L **"RAGS TO RICHES"** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".
- 189L **"PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES"** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L **JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L **PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- 192L **INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

Showcase

Rob's Whippoorwill

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Semiminiature



Mary Craig

Exhibited by: Marilyn Hall

Hybridized by: R. Nadeau

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Large





Revenge

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Martha Turner

Hybridized by: K. Stork

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky
Standard



Lela Marie

Best Variegated Standard from

2nd Best AVSA Collection

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Roy Hall

Hybridized by: I. Lineberg

Standard



Committees of the African Violet Society of America

Part II

Janet T. Riemer, *AVSA Archivist*

Large, non-profit organizations such as the African Violet Society of America are often served by many volunteers serving on committees. AVSA has two types of committees: standing committees which were enumerated in an article in the July issue of the African Violet Magazine, and special committees.

Special committees are created either for a limited time period or for a very specific purpose. Each chairman is appointed by the president and may be appointed by a succeeding president or replaced by a new appointee. Each chairman has the right to select the members of his/her committee with the guidance and approval of the president.

Special Committees
(in alphabetical order)

Annual Index Committee - The responsibility of this committee is to compile an index of each year's issues of the African Violet Magazine. Included in the index are authors, a combination of titles and subjects, and titles of color pictures. The index for a given year usually appears in the following January issue.

Best Varieties List and Honor Roll Committee - Each AVSA member and each member of an affiliate has the privilege and the responsibility of submitting a list of 25 favorite violets annually. This committee collates all these lists into one, which is then published in the African Violet Magazine. Those varieties appearing on the published list for three consecutive years are placed on an Honor Roll.

Booster Fund Committee - This committee receives and acknowledges donations which are deposited into the general treasury to help defray the Society's operating expenses. Committee members also assist in the sale and/or raffle of donated items that are held at convention.

Boyce Edens Research Fund Committee - Individual and affiliate club donations to this fund, as well as a portion of each commercial member's dues, are used to support academic research. Acknowledgement of all donations is

done by this committee. Grants to conduct research are solicited and reviewed by the Research Committee (a standing committee) and approved by the Board of Directors.

Building Maintenance Fund Committee - Formerly the Building Fund Committee, this fund was begun to raise money for the purchase of a site for the Society's business office. Since the acquisition of a building in Beaumont, Texas, donations to the fund are used to provide necessary maintenance. The committee acknowledges all donations.

Bylaws Committee - Preparation of amendments or revisions to the Bylaws of the Society is the responsibility of this committee. Such proposals for change are presented to the Board of Directors for their approval, published in the African Violet Magazine, and voted upon by the membership at convention.

Convention Manual Committee - This committee is responsible for a manual which explains the procedures which should be followed to successfully host a national convention. The convention director plays a major role on this committee which revises the manual periodically. The manual is a means of transmitting experience from one hosting group to another.

Guide for Affiliate Presidents & AVSA Representatives Committee - The guide is a booklet available from the AVSA office for use by affiliates. The committee revises the booklet periodically, when directed to do so by the Board of Directors.

Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges Committee - This publication by the Society is the official manual for all AVSA affiliate and convention shows. The committee revises it as needed with guidance from the Shows and Judges Chairman. New editions are published when revisions become extensive.

Internet Content Committee - The creation of a website on the Internet created a need for a committee to coordinate

and implement the functions associated with the maintenance of the site. The committee members promote the use of the website as a tool for AVSA affiliates and advertisers.

Open Forum Committee - The open forum was established to provide the AVSA membership with a means of presenting information, asking questions and exchanging ideas with the officers, directors, and committee chairmen at convention. It is held at a scheduled time and is hosted by the chairman of the committee.

Policies & Procedures Committee - The Policies & Procedures book is a manual that guides officers, directors, and committee chairmen in operating the Society. Actions taken by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee that change the way the Society functions are incorporated in the book by this committee, chaired by the Secretary. Updating is done at least once a year.

Resolutions Committee - This committee is responsible for the preparation of courtesy resolutions thanking the convention hosts, to be read into the minutes of the annual meeting.

Salary Committee - Composed of the vice presidents, the treasurer, and the finance chairman, this committee reviews staff salaries and presents suggestions for changes to the Board of Directors.

Tally Time Committee - Tally Time is an annual list of show winners of AVSA Collection Awards, Best in Show, and other top winners. These awards, from all affiliated clubs, are reported to this committee which collates the information and presents the results in an article in the March issue of the AVM.

Technology Committee - The purpose of this new committee is to advise the Board of Directors on the application of computing technologies used by the office staff to support the goals of the Society. This includes reviewing the inventory of computer hardware and regulating its maintenance, reviewing license agreements for software, and evaluating and recommending software upgrades when appropriate.

Vintage Violets Committee - This committee is charged with the preservation and restoration of older African violet varieties. Attempts are made to keep these varieties available to members by publicizing both wishes and availability in the African Violet Magazine.

Ways & Means Committee - This committee is responsible for researching and securing African violet related items for sale at convention and through the AVSA office. Profits realized are deposited in the general treasury for use in meeting the Society's operating costs.

Attention Commercial Members:

The AVSA Board of Directors has approved a change in the rules for accepting Gift Certificates as awards for the convention shows. Starting with the 2000 Omaha Convention, I would most pleased to accept any Gift Certificate that you would like to send as an award. Please send the certificate and a current catalogue or list to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski, *AVSA Awards Chairman*
1416 N. W. A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • golubski@kc.net

Attention AVSA Members: Change In Awards Procedures

Beginning with the 2001 Chicago Convention, if you wish to donate an award for a specific variety, the deadline for sending them to the Awards Chairman will be July 1, 2000. This rule will be in effect for all future conventions. The reason for this change is to allow more persons the opportunity to exhibit the specific variety. The specified varieties will appear in the September/October magazines. Too often, a variety appears in the January magazine and the convention is in April or May. That does not allow enough time to purchase and grow a show plant. We want to give everyone an even opportunity to win. This will not effect the 2000 Convention in Omaha. If you should have any questions or comments, please write, phone or e-mail me.

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski, *AVSA Awards Chairman*
1416 N. W. A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • golubski@kc.net

Showcase

Rob's Hand Puppet

Second Best New Cultivar

1999 National Show

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Semiminiature



Orchard's Bumble Magnet

Best Miniature

Third Best in Show

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Hybridized by: R. Wilson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





Emergency

New Introduction

1999 National Show

Hybridized & Exhibited by: K. Stork

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky
Standard



Sinningia pusilla

Best in Class

Third Best Gesneriad

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Dale Martens

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton

622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from February 1, 1999 - March 31, 1999

Albuquerque African Violet Club, Albuquerque, NM \$25.00	Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY \$5.00	Jeanne Maier, Lynbrook, NY \$2.00
Joyce Stenger, Houston, TX 20.00	Mrs. William Moeller, Electra, TX 10.00	Milwaukee AVS, Cudahy, WI 15.00
<i>in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.</i>	Mrs. Ruby Cox, Bethany, MO 10.00	Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN 2.00
Alpha African Violet Society, Mesquite, TX . . . 25.00	Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX 20.00	Ralph Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA 12.00
<i>in memory of Mrs. Eva Mae White</i>	Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY 7.00	Ruth Brassell, Lubbock, TX 5.00
Judith Smith, Laverock, PA 7.00	Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI 10.00	Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00
Elizabeth Roth, Wallingford, PA 2.00	Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK 2.00	Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA 3.00
AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN 15.00	Pat Dorsey, San Diego, CA 2.00	Lila Diamond, New York, NY 2.00
<i>in memory of Ruth Ellis</i>	Susan Daigle, Oakland, ME 5.00	Lucille Remsburg, Taneytown, MD 10.00
Claudette Schaaf, Arvada, CO 5.00	Marie Gullikson, Onalaska, WI 5.00	Catherine Wai, Hong Kong 10.00
Shirley Davis, Fort Meyers Beach, FL 10.00	Ruby Parker, Shreveport, LA 10.00	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 10.00
African Violet Club of Morris County, Randolph, NJ 30.00	Reginald Arington, West Friendship, MD . . . 10.00	Wong Wai Sing, Hong Kong 20.00
<i>in memory of Mrs. Angela Rosenbaum</i>	Doris Weaver, Stockton, CA 10.00	Dorothy Pultz, Mellenville, NY 2.00
Pamela Woods, Gardena, CA 5.00	Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council . . 20.00	Larry Watkins, McLean, VA 5.00
Colin Dimon, Vestal, NY 10.00	Lynda Vaillancourt, Durango, CO 10.00	Roseline Fujimori, Honolulu, HI 10.00
Frances Cooper, Springfield, PA 2.00	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00	Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
Jeffery Walsh, Norcross, GA 10.00	Amethyst AVC, St. Louis, MO 10.00	Ramona Like, Morrow, GA 5.00
Mrs. Faye Wieditz, Wichita, KS 10.00	Peggy Eaton, Brighton, MA 12.00	Bruce Parker, Fairfax, VA 3.00
	Marcella Wright, Niceville, FL 2.00	
	Michelle Myers, Floyds Knobs, IN 7.00	
		TOTAL \$479.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS 1 FEBRUARY TO 31 MARCH

Martha Middleton, Eatonton, GA \$10.00	Colin R. Dimon, Vestal, NY \$10.00	Romona Like, Morrow, GA \$5.00
Mrs. D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT 10.00	Atchafalaya Violet Society, 366.28	Bruce Parker, Fairfax, VA 2.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI 5.00	Morgan City, LA	Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
Mrs. Albert W. Koch, Clayton, MO 5.00	<i>Balance of Treasury - Club Disbanded</i>	AVS Philadelphia, PA 5.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Eatontown, NJ 10.00	Howard Lamb, Sun City, AZ 7.00	<i>In lieu of travel expenses -</i>
Brenda Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS 10.00	Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO 10.00	<i>Barbara Jones, Springfield, PA AVS</i>
Joe & Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL 10.00	Mary Lester, Aurora, CO 12.00	Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI 20.00
Claudette Schaaf, Arvada, CO 5.00	Carole Domnitz, Bellmore, NY 5.00	Larry Watkins, Mc Lean, VA 5.00
Marie T. Gail, Tucson, AZ 5.00	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00	AVS of Dayton, OH 20.00
AVS of Minnesota 15.00	Richard Jarrett, Rochester, PA 10.00	Wilma McCain, Mulberry, AR 7.00
Phoebe Hahn, Berkeley Heights, NJ 10.00	Eleanor Van Sant, Sun City, AZ 7.00	Amy Trept, Arlington, TX 5.00
Lake Area Violet Growers, St. Paul, MM . . . 25.00	Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI 15.00	Albert Maddux, Milton, FL 5.00
Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY 2.00	Joyce Stenger, Houston, TX 20.00	Judith Hess, Greendale, WI 2.00
Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada 5.00	<i>In fond memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.</i>	Charles & Barbara Werness,
Smith's Country Cottage AV's, Spencerport, NY 25.00	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 10.00	Coon Rapids, MN 10.00
Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX 20.00	AV Council of Florida 50.00	Nancy McIlernan, Gaithersburg, MD 12.00
Jeffery Walsh, Norcross, GA 10.00	Meredit Hall, Houston, TX 25.00	Mary Parker, Sandy, OR 2.00
The AVS of Denver, Chapter 1 10.00	<i>In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.</i>	Lenore Jackson-DeVine, Richardson, TX 5.00
Harold Swirsky, Glencoe, IL 25.00	<i>Parents of John Nabers</i>	Robert Zubrycky, New York, NY 4.00
Agnes Mc Laughlin, Coralville, IA 5.00	Anita Rudolph, New Hyde Park, NY 7.00	Clark Barnes, Granby, CT 12.00
Kathleen Stottle, Pittsfield, MA 7.00	Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA 3.00	Jeanelle Roberts, Miami, FL 2.00
Jill Fischer, Berkeley Heights, NJ 2.00	Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL 7.00	C.V. Heerden, Gardenia Park, South Africa . . . 5.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Oshkosh, WI 10.00	Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00	AVS Philadelphia, PA 25.00
Becky Bulmer, Brampton, Canada 5.00	Joseph Lebediker, Syracuse, NY 2.00	Ronald H. Whitchurch, Clearwater, FL 100.00
Karen Taillie, Everett, WA 12.00	AVS Philadelphia, PA 15.00	<i>In loving memory of Julianne Canfield</i>
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis, MO 15.00	<i>In lieu of travel expenses - Carol Callaghan, Libby Behnke & Diane Abramson - Delaware AVS</i>	
		TOTAL \$1,124.78



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
<clubs@avsa.org>

Do you enjoy your violets? Are you looking for someone with whom you can share your hobby? Are you looking for ways to learn more about growing? Are you looking for people to share and trade new and different varieties?

If you are not a member of a local club to share your hobby, let me tell you how to find one. Do you have access to the internet? If so, go to the affiliate web site <avsa.org/affiliates> and check out the list of clubs in your region. Most of the affiliates have information listed about their meetings and a person to contact for additional questions. If you do not have access to the internet, most libraries have the access available for you. If there is not enough information to help you, please e-mail me at <clubs@avsa.org>. We will be glad to help you find the club nearest you.

If you don't have internet access, maybe you have a

copy of the September 1998 issue of The African Violet Magazine. The center insert of the magazine has a listing of all the clubs currently registered with AVSA. The March issue of the magazine lists updates and this article has some new listings.

If there is not a club or grower near you, perhaps you would be interested in starting a club. We can help you do that, too. We have a packet of helpful information assembled to help you no matter whether you are a new grower or an experienced grower. Maybe someone else in your area has contacted us regarding starting a club in your area. We can introduce you to each other and you can work together.

New clubs are organizing in the Flint, MI, Midland, TX and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada areas. If you live in or near any of these areas, we hope you will give the contacts listed below a call and be a part of their beginning.

Flint, Michigan
Contact: Wilson Cronk
4392 Depot Drive
Swartz Creek, MI 48473 USA
810-635-8576
E-mail: <wcronk@ivs2.oom>

Midland, Texas
Contact: Marge Savage
2804 Stutz Drive
Midland, TX 79705
915-699-4296
E-mail: <savagetom@juno.com>

Montgomery County Violet Society
Second Saturday each month
Germantown Library
Germantown, MD
Contact: Helen Hansen
301-572-4721
E-mail: <Hwhanse@ibm.net>

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Wendy Ross
3 Edmund Street
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 2E9
Canada
905-641-178
E-mail: <wendy.ross@sympatico.ca>

Meetings: subject to change
Fourth Tuesday each month
Banker's Room, Centennial Library
St. Catharines, Ontario

Congratulations and welcome to
these new affiliates:

Blacksburg AVS
President: K C. Arceneaux
707 Ascot Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060-4032

Portlandia Violet Club
President: Blanche Bunket
18005 SE Mill Court
Portland, OR 97233-5170



Showcase

Gloxinia 'Chic'

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Dale Martens

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'

Best in Class

2nd Best Gesneriad

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





"Hermann Park"

Best in Class - Bottle Garden

Exhibited by: Olive Ma Robinson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



"Missions Along The Trail"

Best in Class - Dish Garden

Exhibited by: Fran Russom

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



A Closer Look



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64051

**DAVE'S
AFRICAN
VIOLETS**

On a beautiful spring afternoon I drove to Springfield, Missouri, to visit one of AVSA's newest commercial members, David Harris of Dave's African Violets.

David met me in the driveway at the rear of his house and showed me into his growing room, a converted garage. We then passed through a breezeway into the dining room. Looking around me as I took a seat, I could see plant stands in every room of the house. There was even a plant stand next to the bed in David's bedroom.

The African violets and gesneriads are relatively new to the Harris household. Before the African violets David raised and showed Persian cats. Then he raised and sold tropical fish, specializing in catfish and angels, growing between three thousand and five thousand of each variety a year.

By 1990 he had ceased raising cats and tropical fish and began to grow African violets. This was not David's first experience with houseplants as he used to grow them as a boy in tiny Vanzant, in south-central Missouri.

David first grew some Optimara varieties as well as some unnamed varieties from local stores. His first exposure to true show plants was at a Missouri Valley African Violet Council show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Especially striking to David was Kent Stork's 'Windy Day' and Raymond Russell's 'Yesterday's Love.'

By 1995 David was exhibiting plants and winning ribbons. In addition to showing at AVSA national conventions, David has shown and sold at Dixie African



David has found that plants this size sell especially well at garage sales, flea markets and local grocery stores.

Violet Society's conventions. He also likes to show and sell at the Ozark Empire Fair held in late July in Springfield. This



All of David's plants do very well with the automated watering system.

is a regional fair attended by hundreds of thousands of people from across Missouri, Arkansas and even Oklahoma and Kansas.

"When I went commercial on June 21, 1998, my E-mail lit up. I went into ways of timesaving because this is the '90s. Years ago it was not fast paced. Now days, people don't seem to have time. Because I'm single, I have to keep a time for working and then find ways to save time. One of the ways is the irrigation system I designed."

David is proud of the system he uses to water his plants. Inspired by a system he saw in a pet store, David's laborsaving system was described in detail in the March-April 1999 AVM.

Another time saver for David is his labeling system. At the beginning of the growing season, he, or his sister, write plant names on plastic labels, which are then kept in alphabetical order in a file until needed. Other growers would prefer to label plants as they are potted but David finds his method to be quicker and more efficient for him.

Like any grower, David has his favorites. 'Pink Crystal' and 'Persian Prince' from Lyon Greenhouses, along with 'Sassy Shirley' by Hortense Pittman and Travis' 'Peach Puff' and 'Georgia Lover' are at the top of David's list of favorites.

David publishes a beautiful catalog of available varieties. It is computer generated although he denies that he is a computer expert. "I am just lucky how I punch the keys on it," he stated. Indeed, the list and growing brochures are very well done with full color pictures using Microsoft Publisher 97.

Although he doesn't advertise yet, David credits his growing mail-order business to word of mouth of satisfied customers. "I may never advertise because when I advertise locally I bring people in from Michigan, Topeka, Kansas, and Claremore, Oklahoma. I have regular customers from Mountain Home, Arkansas, and someone recently came up from Little Rock."

David credits his increasing reputation to selling a "good product" and "growing my plants just a little

bigger than what I could sell by mail," and "they like talking to me, I guess," he said in a strong Ozark accent.

A constant-feed method of fertilizing is used by David, with a rotation of Peters 12-36-14, Volkmann's 20-20-20 and Peters 5-50-16. It is David's belief that plants like a variety in their diet just as people do.

David incorporates Marathon into his growing medium as well as occasionally spraying for mites. He uses a commercially prepared potting mix to which he adds perlite, vermiculite and charcoal.

The forty-two-year-old bachelor said, "Plants have brought a lot of enjoyment to me over the years. I can't get out to hunt or do a lot of other things. But I have made a lot of friendships across the United States because of this little plant."

David was referring to a partially crippled leg from an injury more than twenty years ago. His problem has given him empathy toward those customers who have trouble with stairs.

"I designed the floor in my plant room to allow people in wheelchairs or with walkers to come see my violets. I know how hard it is to get up a lot of steps." Because of a ramp built for David, his plant room is accessible to almost anyone, and, after all, he adds, "Just looking at those blooms can bring a little smile to your face."

Well said, David, well said.

In a few days, Beth and I will travel to the east coast on business. We plan to visit and interview some AVSA commercial members there and hopefully your favorite will be among them. Watch for my next column.



David adjusts one of the watering tubes to a tray of plants.



Tiger

Grown by: Geneva Holmes

Hybridized by: I. Fredette

Large

A Tiger In My Plant Room

by Geneva I. Holmes
Westminster, Colorado

The 'Tiger' in my plant room is friendly, she does not roar or threaten to attack. She does make a statement with her appearance and is outstanding at times. My 'Tiger' is an African violet that I have grown for twenty years.

In 1979 I attended my first AVSA Convention at the Regency Hotel in Denver, CO. Being a new member of a violet club, it was exciting seeing the many large plants on display. At that time the few plants I was growing were much smaller than most of the other exhibits. My entries were just helping to fill space. Sometimes, that is still the case on the day of the show.

Growing plants has been important in my life since childhood. It started with vegetables and a few flowers on our farm. In my adult life I have grown nearly every kind of outdoor plant and many houseplants indoors. When someone suggested it would be beneficial to start a new African violet club, it sounded like a good idea. Five National Council of State Garden Club judges started Ultra Violet Club in 1976. I was one of the five judges and Emma Lahr was the driving force behind this group.

At the 1979 Convention a man from Texas had a 'Tiger' plant that everyone admired. I do not remember his name but I think he was a commercial. Many people wanted to buy a leaf and I was in that line. He nearly striped his plant to nothing as we each purchased a leaf of this beautiful variegated plant. The price of the leaf was either \$1.25 or \$1.50. It seemed like a lot for a leaf but I wanted that plant! The leaf was carefully planted in starter mix and then the waiting began. Six months later the leaf was still healthy but no babies had appeared. It made me wonder if I had wasted my money. Finally several tiny leaves appeared and new life was beginning. The mother leaf produced one baby which was potted up at the appropriate time. Each time a new leaf was started it produced one plant, never additional ones.

Over the years my 'Tiger' has been entered in the Violet Show and Flower Shows several times. Generally, it is at the most beautiful state when there is not a show to enter.

It was entered in the AVSA Convention in Denver in 1994 and won a blue ribbon. This year it was in full bloom in January and did not have adequate blooms in March at show time.

My method of growing 'Tiger' and my other violets is to water them on reservoirs or matting. It seems that the plant grows a little larger on matting and has a more lush appearance. Perhaps the higher humidity of matting is a

benefit. The semi double dark blue-violet blooms are not terribly large but there is an abundance at times, up to 35-45

blooms. The fertilizer water most often used is Peters 12-36-14 every time and 10-50-10 once or twice a year. A drop of Superthrive in a gallon of fertilizer is also used. My lights are on about fourteen hours a day. It grows best on a lower shelf.

'Tiger' will probably stay in my collection for many years to come. It is a very satisfactory plant. A new leaf was put down recently. It probably will produce one baby as it has done in the past.

This has always been puzzling to me because most other leaves give six to ten babies.

As long as 'Tiger' does not growl or roar it can remain in my plant room. The foliage is beautiful even when it is not in bloom.



Words Of CONVENTION WISDOM

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI & Combes, TX

It has always been my contention that there is as much to be learned between sessions of a convention as there is during the meetings. It also appears that a stranger might well observe things that a regular might miss.

The Lone Star Violet Roundup convention of the African Violet Society of America held recently in Houston was an example. The best move I made was to help Ruth Rumsey at the AVSA Sales Table. At the same time, Mrs. Geiss helped Jenny Daugereau at Registration. The two ladies were kind enough to introduce us to many of the fellow members of the society. We were thus able to chat with many of them. Prior to the convention, some were simply names mentioned in magazines or at local club meetings. Others might not have been as well known to a casual member but presented us with many tidbits of information.

Dispensing now with generalities, let's take a look at some specifics that were new to us.

A name tag read "Lynn Lombard". I could hardly sputter out the name in recalling that she was the lady who wrote a number of times complimenting us on an article in the African Violet Magazine. As we talked repeatedly during the week, it was obvious we had the same concerns about increasing membership in AVSA. We will be working together now to achieve that end.

We met Elizabeth Glazebrook at dinner. An Australian, she talked to us in snatches throughout the convention about her country. It was one which we had always desired to visit. It turned out she is doing some hybridizing and has an email address. She is destined to become our first email contact outside the continental U.S. It sounds like she has many of the same problems caused by heat as do the members of the Valley AVS in south Texas where we spend the winters. She may well have tips that will help ease the struggle of plants during the hot summer.

Next, we discovered an avid group of growers who are in email contact with each other. What a great chance to have questions answered, problems solved, and contact with growers all over the U.S.

We were like kids in a candy shop when we saw all of the plant offerings set out for purchase by the commercial growers. We learned about the new Optimara Dancer series and had a chance to have a couple of them added to

our collection much earlier than if we had waited for them to go on the open market. The beautiful 'Saturn' plant on sale at the Lyndon Lyon's booth was swamped with purchasers including the writer. Many other new plants and leaves were purchased during our tours of the Commercial Sales area.

In a private conversation with Dr. Charles Cole, he eliminated an idea we had heard about which was supposed to be a sure fire killer of thrips. It saved us much experimentation time.

There are a number of people, we discovered, who are growers and lovers of African violets, but do not show plants.

There were many other men involved with various roles at the convention. This was startling to us as almost all of the people interested in African violets that we contact in Northern Michigan and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas are ladies.

After conversing with many individuals, we theorized that people are more likely to discuss their insect and growing problems in private than in a public forum.

Working with Jenny and Ruth gave us a great appreciation of the load of work that the AVSA staff puts out. We developed greater respect for them and hopefully all members recognize the work they do for us.

We were surprised at the few opportunities available to newcomers to have basic questions answered. Unfortunately new people are often reluctant to ask questions in public. We wondered why there were not some starting from scratch workshops or perhaps some basic specific sections like potting plants or setting leaves. Come to think of it, I am not aware of any Big Brother, Big Sister approach to meeting and hosting members who attend for the first time.

Remember now that although we have been a member of the AVSA for a number of years and are acknowledged to have attended three conventions, we had never before attended the full program. Be aware then that our views are colored by being novices at these annual events.

It was a great experience and certainly one that all members should have. Plan now for Omaha. For those who have never attended keep in mind there is an old saying that a first hand exposure is the best way to learn.

How to ...

Repot African Violets

African violets should be repotted about twice a year, or every 5-6 months. Once mature, this simply means repotting the plant, with some fresh soil, into the *same* size pot. Never use a pot larger than the plant's root system - for standards, this usually means about a 4" pot, for minis and semiminis, a pot no larger than 2 1/2". Over the course of time, your violet will have lost (or had removed) its older, lower leaves, forming a "neck". Besides providing the roots with fresh soil, repotting is necessary to eliminate this.

Step 1: African violet with a "neck".

A "neck" is the palm-tree like trunk that appears over time as the lower rows of leaves are removed. A well-grown violet should have its lowest row of leaves growing from the trunk at soil-level. When a neck exists, the lowest row of leaves are well above the soil level and pot rim. By repotting, this unsightly neck can be eliminated. This is easiest to do when done *regularly*, about every 5-6 months.

Step 2: Cut away the bottom of the root ball.

Remove the plant from its pot and remove from the bottom of the root ball an amount equal to the size of the neck - i.e. if the neck is 1/2" long, remove 1/2" from the bottom of the root ball. This is why repotting is best done regularly, before the neck becomes too long. For example, in an extreme case, where a plant has a 2" neck, we would need to remove 2" from the bottom of the root ball. If the pot is only 2 1/4" deep, this means nearly the entire root system would need to be removed! By repotting when the neck is still small, very little of the root system needs to be removed, and the plant will show few, if any, effects from repotting.

Step 3: Push plant back into the same size pot.

If this is a mature plant, a larger pot is not needed. Since a bottom portion of the root ball has been removed, the violet can now be pushed lower into the pot. The objective is to lower the plant enough, so that the lowest row of leaves is even with the pot rim (i.e. no neck is visible).

Step 4: Add fresh soil.

The violet should now be lower in its pot, so that its lowest row of leaves is level with the pot rim. Add fresh soil, up to the pot rim, covering the neck. The neck will produce new roots into the added soil.

Step 5: The repotted violet.

At this point, *lightly* water the plant. This is important - until the plant begins to develop new roots in the added soil, it will require less water than before. The more drastic the repotting, the more this will be the case.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

*Reprinted with permission from
VioletsFun Photo Journal (see ad page 56)*

“ *And the winners are ...* ”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Plum Pudding, Blushing Ivory; Best in Show/Best Standard: The King, **Marsha Loveland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Molokai, Happy Harold; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Julie Fox**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Snake Charmer, **Freda Brooks**. Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lavender Rosette'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Cookie Trail, **Sue Hill**. Design Sweepstakes, **Patty Hart**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Irish Flirt, Wee Be; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Louise Merritt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Pride of Columbus, Pay Dirt, **Jean Jones**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Luv Texas; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jan Kuritz**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Jane Watts**. Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz, **Katreen Childers**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite', **Kathy Thronson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Howland**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Vintage Wine, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Von's Baby Jay, Sassy Shirley; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Standard: Suncoast Lavender Silk; Best Trailer: Foster Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Spear**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Showgirl, Ward Brown, Ness' Viking Maiden, **Shirley Gomez**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Irish Flirt, Snuggles Big Eyes, **Pauline Halbert**. Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy David**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ruffled Wood Nymph', **Ruth Jones**; Best Design, **Denise Lindsly**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Harbor Blue,

Makin' Romance; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Antique Rose, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Makin' Romance; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Little White Clouds; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Sorbet'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Strock**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Teen Sweetheart, Irish Flirt, Archie Boyd. Design Sweepstakes, **Doris Till**.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Anastasia, Apache Ranger; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Briggs**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Sassy Sister, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Mary Juby**. Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug; Best Trailer: Daisy Trail, **Lois Sprayberry**. Best Design, **Elvie Clendenning**.

DESERT SUN AVS, AZ - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Twinkle Pink; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, California Sunset, Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Collins Griffith**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Country Fair; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Thelma Heinrich**. Best Design, Susan Anderson. Design Sweepstakes, **Georgette Jolivette**.

FANTASY AVC, FL - Winners: Best in Show/Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Standard: Optimara Romance, **Pat Blackett**. Best Semiminiature: Handmade, **Norma Vila**. Best Miniature: Indian Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Ann Horvath**. Best Design, **Trudy Duerstock**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Scooter, Precious Pink; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Design, **Anne**

Nicholas. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Teen Thunder, Hondo Honey; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry.** Best in Show/Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Richard Nicholas.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sweet Dreams', **Janet Castigliane.**

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Frost, Picasso, The Alps; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Delores Gibbs.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beacon Trail, Rob's Boolaroo; Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Nancy Goss.** Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Susan Storey.** Best Miniature: Petite Tart, **Aloha Rhodes.** Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Joyce Kimbro.** Best Design, **Pat Freeman;** Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Moore.**

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fisherman's Paradise, Ness' Candy Pink, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Sport of Wee Be; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marvin Nester.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fall Colors, Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara Modesty; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Teddy', **Christel Collier.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles Red Honey, Precious Pink, Pay Dirt, **Eryth Hendershot.** Best in Show (tie): *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lynne Locke** and Lullaby, **Kelly Patton.** Best Standard: Lullaby; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Kelly Patton.** Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty McVicker.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lynne Locke.** Best Design, **Dora DiLorenzo.**

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Pink Confession, Dance Time; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hot Chocolate; Best Design, **Peggy Fergon.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Cajun Heritage, Fantasy Frost; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun Heritage; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alex Early.** Design Sweepstakes, **Belinda Woodruff.**

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Optimara New Mexico, Optimara Rhode Island; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rebel's Gingham Elf; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Rein.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Tradition, Optimara Harlequin, Optimara Michaelangelo; Best Standard: Red Ferrari, **Robert Aurandt.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Sweetheart, Definitely Darryl, Ness' Satin Rose; Best In Show/Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart; Best Design, **Kathy Lahti.** Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Jean Ness.** Best Trailer: Sport of Milky Way Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann.**

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, The Alps, Annabelle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Vogt.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Lil Hotshot; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Jeanne Maier.** Best Trailer: Rob's Woolloomooloo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Anita Rudolph.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Showgirl'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso.**

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, NE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Chief, Suncoast Paisley Print, Windy Day; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Gizmo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Designer Dress, Swiftly Thriller, Mister Sun, **Nancy Price.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Satin Rose, Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby, **Susan Hapner.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard.** Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Pat Richards.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Barbra Pershing.** Best Gesneriad: *Gloxinia sylvatica* 'Bolivian Sunset', **Gary Dunlap.** Best Design, **Jeanne Cotten.** Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom.**

MOONLIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Optimara Monet, Optimara Michaelangelo; Best in Show: Apache Primrose, **Mural Fort.** Best Semiminiature: Dean's Cupid; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Amy Trept.** Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Clark.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Jealous Heart', **Robert Scherer.** Best Design, **Bonnie Harris.** Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Diane Clark** and **Bonnie Harris.**

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Concord, Mindi Morn; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mindi Morn, **Doris Johnson.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Velvet Frost, Jazzy Jewel; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita subrhomboidia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Celia Schafer.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lemon Cookie, Ness' Sno Fun, Lakeshore Silver, **Alma Lavine.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Bue, Irish Flirt, Rob's Dust Storm, **Carol Boyd.** Best Semiminiature: Bogeyman, **John Jugenheimer.** Best Miniature: Lucky Lass, **LuAnn Christenson.** Best Design, **Marlene Wagner.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones.**

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA -Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary D, Magnolia, Fredette's Moonflower; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary D; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Leopard Skin'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jim Turner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Rhapsodie Clementine, Rain Man, **Marilee Beam.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Rob's Whodunit, Lemon Drop; Best Semiminiature:

Hondo Honey, **Antoinette Luz**. Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Design, **Jacque Eisenhut**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **Hans Inpijn**. Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Jacque Eisenhut** and **Ralph Breden**.

TAMPA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Barbados, Rodeo Country, Deep Dark Secret; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo Country. Best Trailer: Rob's Woolloomooloo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Waller**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Vintage Wine, Ness' Midnight Fantasy, John Menish. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Gesneriad: *Codonanthe*

paula, **Barbara Matthews**. Best Design, **Lynne Wilson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Wrangler's Luv Texas, Coral Crunch; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Foot, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Maverick's Tight Jeans; Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus tricolor*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Keepsake, Optimara Tradition, **Jim Smith**.

THE TINY BUT MITEY

by Tami Rawlings • Chandler, AZ

I knew that Arizona summer heat could stress my violets, but I had not seen a problem the likes of this before. The new growth on some of my larger plants was turning gray and falling off. As it turned out, what I was noticing was only one of the symptoms of mites, but I did not know this at the time. I phoned my good friend and fellow African violet grower, Georgette Jolivette, and invited her over.

Georgette inspected my violets and suggested, very politely, that all of the afflicted plants (and there were a lot of them) should be discarded. I collected leaves off some of them in the hopes of not losing my favorite varieties.

Georgette closely examined some others with a microscope, and showed me what to look for. Mites were congregated at the center of the plant. Under the microscope they looked like plump little sesame seeds with legs. (I don't know if I'll ever eat sesame seeds again.) While I was watching them, the bugs ran away from the light of the microscope, to the undersides of the plant's leaves.

Georgette did another inspection, and we dumped more plants. Eventually, I gave up trying to save any more leaves. I had shared the varieties with other club members before this happened, and I thought I could get some leaves back from them. If not, I thought, there are many African violet growers through out the Unites States who will be happy to sell me more leaves and plants.

We set up an assembly line process. I brought the plants down off the shelf. Georgette inspected them, discarding the remainder showing signs of mites. I mixed a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts of warm water. We dipped rags in the bleach water, wrung them out and used them to wipe down the outside of the pots. After about five minutes of using each rag, we replaced them, never dipping a "used" rag back into the bleach water solution.

As the process worn on, I was so happy to have

someone help me do this. Georgette is not only knowledgeable in diagnosing and treating the situation, but she was not emotionally attached to my plants! She didn't particularly relish the idea of tossing plants, but her support was tremendous. She showed me that if the new growth is hard and brittle or twisted or distorted, suspect mites and discard.

I also discovered that if the names of the plants are written on the sides of the pots, Solo cups here, bleach water beats the Sharpie pen. Georgette had warned me about this, but I was so overwhelmed by the magnitude of the infestation that I shrugged it off.

I washed all the plant trays with bleach water. I sterilized the water reservoirs in the dishwasher with dishwasher detergent and 1 cup of bleach added to each load. Then I washed the plant stand, the ballasts and the wall behind the stand with bleach water.

After everything was cleaned, we washed the leaves I had saved in bleach water, rinsed them with fresh water, and started them in new Solo cups with fresh soil, per the usual propagation process.

I'm spraying my plants (and leaves) with Knox Out twice a week, and will continue to do so for 4 or 5 weeks. And, I'm keeping a lookout for more signs of mites and will discard anything that looks suspicious.

Nothing beats experience in treating this problem. So, now I'm experienced. How did I get mites? I'm not certain, but I think I brought them on myself by not quarantining a large number of plants that had been out of my home. In the future, I plan to quarantine anything new, or that has been out of my house! I have decided that if I don't have the room to quarantine properly, I don't have the room, or time, for the plants in the first place. And while quarantined, I will continue to examine the plants regularly for any signs of pests!

Lyndon Lyon

1904 - 1999

by his son, Robert Lyon

Lyndon Lyon, 94, of Dolgeville, NY, passed away May 19, 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Adelaide in 1995.

Lyndon was a self-motivated man who became highly successful in life, in spite of a tenth grade education. He was self-educated, reading voraciously on many subjects. The accomplishments for which he was best known were as a hybridizer and grower of African violets.

His passion for African violets began in 1949, with the gift of an African violet leaf. For the first five years (1949 - 1954) his research and hybridizing took place at home on wooden benches under artificial lighting. By the early '50s he had 24 double benches, three tiers high, lighted for 18 hours a day, which filled the entire upper story. Lyndon was one of the first in the eastern U.S. to experiment with artificial lighting. His success with violets prompted him to expand into greenhouses; the first built in '54, the second in '56 and the third in '59.

By 1955 Lyndon's hybridizing efforts had resulted in 80 new African violet varieties, including a "double" pink, with a total of 5,000 plants under production. The double pink was the first double flower he produced and created a sensation at the 1954 AVSA Convention in St. Louis. Lyndon had predicted that double pinks would be developed, and eventually yellows, bright reds and true blues. He pioneered hybridizing "star" flowers with five petals fairly equal in size. The first such cross was made in 1952, and by 1956 he had succeeded. By 1958 he had stars in many colors, some of them frilled. In the years that followed he developed miniatures and miniature trailers, then expanded into related Gesneriads: *Espicia*, *Streptocarpus*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Sinningia*, *Gloxinia* and others. Also, in 1958, Lyndon co-authored a book, 1001 African Violet Questions Answered by 12 Experts.

By 1974 Lyndon had won the New Commercial Introduction award 10 out of the 20 years he attended conventions. He won many, many awards, trophies, plaques and ribbons, numerous First Places in categories such as horticultural perfection, Best Seedling, Best Commercial Exhibit. He was acclaimed nationally and internationally for his accomplishments.

Lyndon was experimenting with over 100 crosses per year by 1977. By 1981 he had created about 800 different varieties, and was selling over 100,000 plants per year by



*Lyndon Lyon with great, great grandson Zach.
Photo credit: Daniela Goldfarb, Lyndon Lyon's great granddaughter.*

1982. His business was about 50% retail and 50% wholesale, and there were about 50 to 60 thousand plants on view in the greenhouses at any given time.

Lyndon's ingenuity and drive boosted the world's awareness of African violets, and he was instrumental in helping African violets become "America's favorite houseplant". He considered the African violet to be the "Queen of Houseplants".

Lyndon Lyon received the AVSA Bronze Medal in 1956, at that time their highest honor. He was given an Honorary Life Membership to AVSA in 1984.

On April 10, 1999, Lyndon Lyon was inducted into the AVSA Hall of Fame at the AVSA Convention in Houston, TX. The award was presented to Lyndon's grandson, Paul Sorano, who now owns and operates the Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

At the age of 73, in 1977, Lyndon expanded into a whole new area of hybridizing in his fourth greenhouse - the rose greenhouse. He hybridized and produced miniature roses, a new passion he pursued into his 9th decade. He wanted to hybridize miniature roses without thorns, that were ever-blooming, bloomed within six weeks from seed, and were frost tolerant and disease resistant.

In 1984, at the age of 80, Lyndon retired but continued his rose research on a smaller scale, maintaining a devoted interest to the end. He went a long way in creating his ideal miniature roses, but simply ran out of time.

DISEASE AND PLANT PROBLEMS

One of the major problems associated with African violet care is excessive watering, which can lead to root or crown rot. Root and crown rot caused by the fungus *Pythium ultimum* may occur on overwatered plants. All ages of plants may be affected. The crown and roots of these infected plants turn dark and soft, and the leaves usually wilt. Infected plants can be lifted easily from the soil. This disease is not a problem when plants are grown in a pasteurized soil mixture in a container that allows for proper drainage. Destroy badly diseased plants, and thoroughly clean and disinfect their containers before reusing them.

Highly prized plants can sometimes be saved if the crown is not badly decayed. Remove the rotted portion of the crown well above the line of decay and reroot the plant in sterile medium. Petiole rot begins as an orange-brown or rust-colored lesion where the petiole touches the rim of the pot or where it contacts the soil. This is aggravated by the accumulation of fertilizer salts on the rim of the porous pot or on the soil surface. The unsightly yellow or white ring and line patterns that occasionally appear on the leaves are thought to be caused by a sudden chilling of the leaves, cold water or by the sun shining on wet leaves. This condition is known as ring spot or chlorosis, and can be avoided by carefully watering the plants from below with water slightly warmer than air temperature.

African violets infested with root-knot nematodes are stunted and weakened. Galls form on the roots, and the crown and leaves become thickened and distorted. Blister like galls also develop on the leaves. Destroy all infested plants, sterilize their containers, and propagate new plants only from nematode-free plants. The leaves of plants grown under greenhouse conditions may become infected by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*. *Botrytis* blight first appears as small water-soaked lesions on the underside of the leaf. These lesions enlarge until much of the leaf turns brown to black. Flowers may be similarly affected. High humidity, poor air circulation, and low light intensity contribute to the development of this disease. Spores of the pathogen are spread by direct contact of leaves. Spacing the plants so that the leaves of adjacent plants will not touch reduces spreading to healthy plants. Since infection by *Botrytis* often follows mite injury, controlling these pests aids in controlling the disease. The application of a foliar fungicide may be needed to control severe outbreaks.

Powdery mildew is a light gray, powdery substance on the stems and petioles. This shortens the life of blooms. Mildew grows in cool, moist, stagnant air. The best cure is air circulation - a small fan moving the air in the room will keep it from developing. Karathane is a good control, as is dusting sulfur when a very small amount is blown lightly over the plants.

Insects and mites occasionally damage the foliage and flowers of African violets. Cyclamen mites feed in the plant crown, causing young leaves and new growth to be stunted, twisted, discolored, and brittle. When infestations are heavy, leaf hairs become matted and flower buds fail to open. Cyclamen mites can be controlled by treating infested plants at weekly intervals for three weeks with dienochlor (Pentac 50WP) at a rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon of water, or with 2 or 3 applications of dicofol (Kelthane) as directed on the label. Adding a few drops of liquid detergent to the spray will increase coverage and provide better control. Isolate infested plants and be careful while handling them so you do not accidentally transfer mites from one plant to another.

Mealy bugs are small, soft-bodied insects that occur in white, cotton clusters on the surfaces of leaves, on leaf petioles, and near the bases of leaf stems. They injure plants by sucking plant juices, which causes stunting and distortion of the leaves. Mealy bugs also excrete a shiny, sticky substance called honeydew that is highly attractive to ants and also supports unsightly growths of a dark sooty mold. Heavy mealy bug infestations may cause leaves and plants to wither and die. Mealy bugs can often be eliminated by spraying plants with a jet of lukewarm water or by removing them with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. When infestations are heavy or when many plants are involved, the best approach is to make 2 to 3 weekly applications of 57% malathion at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon of water. Disulfoton (DiSyston), a systemic granular insecticide, will also provide satisfactory control if scratched into the soil and watered in. Hanging a pest strip in the vicinity of plants may help prevent reinfestation.

Ground or root mealy bugs are tiny, whitish insects that feed on African violet roots, causing poor plant growth and wilting of leaves between waterings. To control these pests, avoid overwatering and drench soils with an insecticide such as malathion or acephate (Orthene).

Stunted plants with curled or distorted leaves may be an

indication of feeding of aphids. Both adults and nymphs are similar in appearance with soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, and antennae. Like mealybugs, aphids excrete honeydew which gives leaf surfaces a shiny appearance and supports the formation of sooty mold. Aphids can be washed from infested African violets with a spray of lukewarm water, or treated with an insecticide such as 57% malathion at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon of water plus a few drops of liquid detergent. Repeat this treatment after 7 to 10 days. When only a few plants are involved, consider using a premixed, commercial house plant spray that lists both aphids and African violets on the label.

Thrips are small, slender insects characterized by long, hair-fringed wings. They damage African violets by feeding on the leaves and flowers. Typical leaf injury appears as irregular or streaked silvered areas dotted with small, black

drops of excrement. Flower feeding causes distorted blooms, discoloration or streaking of petals and shorter flower life. Thrips can be controlled with 1 or 2 applications of premixed, commercial house plant spray containing malathion or Orthene. Be sure that the product is specifically labeled for both thrips and African violets.

Some pesticides damage plants, so be certain the product you select is recommended for use on African violets. In many cases, the label provides a list of plants known to be sensitive to the pesticide, as well as those plants for which it is recommended. When possible, test-treat a few plants and look for signs of plant injury after 2 to 7 days before treating remaining plants.

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publication of Mid-Atlantic AVS

How to Groom a Young Violet

One of the most difficult things for a novice grower to do is to remove leaves, no matter how unnecessary they may be. When we're new to the hobby, just keeping the violet alive and healthy is an achievement, and a plant with more leaves somehow seems more "alive" than one with fewer. Why would we want to remove leaves we are so proud to have been able to grow in the first place?

Regular grooming, though, will benefit your violet in the long run. By removing unnecessary leaves, the remaining growth will be healthier and develop more fully. Its shape, or symmetry, will also be improved, making it a more attractive plant.

Leaves that should be removed are those that are yellowed or otherwise unhealthy. Immature leaves, which are usually smaller and weaker should also be removed.

These are always found below the more mature foliage. Even though these leaves are the oldest, they appear less well developed than newer growth.

Symmetry will be improved by removing leaves, usually from the lowest row, that are overlapped or hidden by leaves in the upper rows, or whose absence won't create additional gaps or spaces in the shape of the plant.

Don't be afraid to remove leaves. Since blooms are normally produced only from the top few rows of leaves, blooming won't be affected and healthier, more symmetrical foliage growth will be encouraged.

Reprinted with permission from
VioletsFun Photo Journal (see ad page 56)

In Memory

JEANNE MYERS

The Seattle AVS is saddened by the recent loss of long time member, Jeanne Myers.

For many years, Jeanne was an integral part of the organization and missed very few meetings. She was an active member for over 25 years, and most recently was responsible for the Blossom Contest. She served the Seattle AVS as Awards Chair and Representative to the Pacific Northwest Judges Council. Jeanne was always willing to share her methods in growing and design.



FLORENCE L. STEIN

There are no age barriers when growing African violets. Florence Stein joined the Amethyst AVC in St. Louis thirty days after her 85th birthday.

Her large collection of African violets, grown in natural

light, provided her with many pleasant hours - but her biggest thrill was the red ribbon awarded to one of her plants that was repotted and entered in a local AVSA show by a fellow club member. When Florence could no longer attend club meetings, cards kept her in touch. A centenarian when she passed away in April, 1999, Florence will be forever remembered by our club.



FLORETTA A. WILLETS

AVSA Master Judge, Floretta A. Willets, passed away in April, 1999. Floretta began growing African violets in 1948, and became a judge in the 1960s. In 1997, at the age of 97, Floretta was acknowledged as the oldest active judge in AVSA. This was at the St. Pete, FL, convention, where she helped judged the national show. Flo is survived by her daughter, Nancy, also an avid grower of African violets, as well as a judge.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Nancy Price - Cedar Falls, IA

***Colette** (8781) 2/23/99 (N. Price) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

David Thompson - Waterloo, IA

***King David** (8782) 2/23/99 (D. Thompson) Semidouble chimera blue frilled star/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

Catherine Thompson - Cedar Falls, IA

***Prince of Blues** (8783) 2/23/99 (C. Thompson) Double white ruffled star/variable blue center, rays; green edge. Medium green, pointed, wavy. **Standard**

Paul Davidson - Utica, NY

***Baker's Anna-Belle** (8784) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single magenta sticktite/variable white top petals. Dark green. **Standard**

***Baker's Carrie** (8785) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet ruffled/variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***Baker's Louise** (8786) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double pink. Light green, plain, pointed/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Lynn** (8787) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light rose sticktite ruffled pansy/darker eye. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Nancy** (8788) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double magenta star. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Ruth** (8789) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single dark purple sticktite pansy/variable white. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***Baker's Sarah** (8790) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light mauve sticktite star/darker edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Stacey** (8791) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Tatyana** (8792) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Semidouble light pink/darker eye. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

Sara McGaha- Cumming, GA

***Opera Doc** (8793) 3/8/99 (S. McGaha) Double blush pink/variable green tips. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Miniature trailer**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

*** Andalusia * California a Shakin' * Domingo's Granada * Go Go Dancer * Jeannie's Lil Dumplin' * Jeannie's Petulant Pony**

Nell Ransone - Tavares, FL

*** All That Magic * Grand Dame * Magnificent * Pinafore Alta * Whirlybird**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

Miss Santa Cruz (8729) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/**thin white and-or green edge**, variable darker tips.

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
1100 Huntingdon Dr. #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Granger's Carnival #4298 (Eyerdom)
Granger's Heart's Desire #3407 (Eyerdom)
Irish Angel #4054 (L. Egenites)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhapsodie® Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4335 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara® Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara® New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Granger's Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Eyerdom)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Granger's Valencia #4051 (Eyerdom)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along n/r (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin' #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen n/r (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzler #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

1998

Ness' Crinkle Blue #8136 (D. Ness)
International n/r (B. Johnson)

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.

(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)

What Makes This Club So Successful?

The Cedar Valley African Violet Club

by Barbara Pershing • Cedar Falls, IA

"What is a measure of 'success' for an affiliate club?" I decided to ask our club members for their thoughts. What makes our club, the Cedar Valley African Violet Club (CVAVC), a "successful" AVSA affiliate?

The CVAVC was started in 1991 by a few African violet growers in the community, spearheaded by a member who had been a member of other clubs and was an AVSA senior judge. Thanks to an article and picture of the officers of the new club in our local/regional newspaper, the membership grew from 10 charter members to about 30 members within a few months.

Membership fluctuates but is fairly stable at about 45 members. About half of the members live up to an hour's drive from our meeting place.

We have a nice mixture of talent among members including three judges, a botanist, and an entomologist. In the beginning, we all banded together and helped each other by sharing plants, materials and advice. We found an opportunity to make new friends with a common interest and the diversity of the group - men and women of all ages, working and retired people - makes the group interesting. One club member said that the diversity of the group "drew me to it." Another member commented that "people are very willing to share their growing secrets".

Probably the most important function of an affiliate club is to provide an opportunity for members to learn. Programs are an essential part of the meetings and a wide variety of informative programs are planned each year. Several members are experienced growers who are willing to share their expertise. Other members are willing to give a program on a given topic or to moderate a question-answer type of program if they are asked. We use AVSA slide programs once or twice a year and one program each year is on 'other gesneriads'. The annual DAWG show is a popular program that can be very informative when a problem solving approach is taken. The first couple of years most programs were very basic topics and we have one program each year on "back to the basics" but program content has become more diverse and specific to the various aspects of growing and showing African violets.

The *Bloomin' Violet*, our club newsletter, is a way of reaching all members, active and inactive, with information

about the club activities, members of the club, AVSA, the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, and articles on various aspects of growing African violets. We have an archive of literature that is available for members to check out at each meeting. The number of AVSA members, (about half of our members are members of AVSA) has grown as they are exposed to the African Violet Magazine and hear from members who have attended Council and AVSA Shows.

In order to keep the business meetings at less than 30 minutes the officers and directors have a board meeting about 4 times a year to plan and make decisions to bring to the club. Regular meetings, low membership dues, refreshments, informative programs, plant sales, and supplies for sale at every meeting are all an important part that makes the club function. The Club maintains a substantial inventory of pots, fertilizer, pesticides, 'soil' mix, sponge rock and other supplies which are sold at cost to members.

It takes money to put on a show. A plant raffle was started at the first meeting and continues to be a popular part of club meetings. Members sign-in at the door and receive a number. During the refreshment period, numbers are drawn until each person has a turn at the sale table where they make one selection, then the sale is open to everyone. Members have an opportunity to sell plants and leaves at club meetings and at the annual show/sale. The Club retains 25% and member receives 75% of the sale price.

The annual show/sale is held the same week-end and same location every year. We have many people who have grown to expect us to be at the Mall the last Friday and Saturday of September. Members are now growing enough good quality sale plants that it has not been necessary to order from commercials for the past two years.

Our first two shows were not AVSA Standard Shows; we needed time to learn "how to do it". We are now planning the 8th annual show; 6th AVSA Standard Show. We have kept records from each show along with suggestions for next time and each year it gets easier and better.

While we would like for more members to show plants (we did have 50% of our active members exhibit at our last

show), we recognize that we have several kinds of members:

1. Those who grow for show and enter many exhibits
2. Those who show one to five entries in addition to project plants
3. Those who enter project plants only (Members who show their project plants receive next year's project plant free)
4. Those who enter designs (usually with considerable arm-twisting)
5. Those who are willing workers in the sales area, but don't enter any exhibits
6. Members who grow from 700+ plants on light stands to others who have a dozen grown on window-sills.

We have had fantastic response to our annual show/sale

which is our best membership recruitment. We have been very fortunate to have had great publicity in our local/regional newspaper. The Lifestyle editor has been a great resource in getting the message out about our show and the Club. For the last four show/sales, we have kept a list of buyers and have sent a follow-up thank-you for buying/club promotion letter. The AVSA affiliate web-site has also gotten the attention of interested people. Probably the most effective membership recruitment is when members invite interested individuals to club meetings and make them feel welcome. New members are given a small starter plant when they join.

The Cedar Valley African Violet Club has come a long way in nine years and it will continue to grow as long as the Club continues to meet the needs of its members and brings new members into the fellowship and camaraderie surrounded by our favorite houseplant, the African violet.



FUNGUS GNATS

by John Beaulieu



Anyone who has grown houseplants for any length of time has seen these tiny dark brown insects swarming around the pots, especially when you are watering, which disturbs them. Many people think that they are 'Fruit Flies', which they do resemble when flying. They are in fact fungus gnats of the genus *Bradysia* or *Sciara*.

They are really only a nuisance. These flying adults do no damage and only live for about a week. The female lays eggs in your potting mix. They love moist soil that is rich in organic matter. Fungus gnat eggs can hatch within a week and the maggots (larvae) will live in the potting mix for several weeks before they turn into immobile pupae and then the flying adult stage.

It is the maggots that do the damage to your plants. They feed on organic matter which includes the plant roots. They can even feed on parts of the lower stems and leaves of the plants. New seedlings are particularly vulnerable to damage from the maggots. Fortunately they don't do a lot of damage in a short time, but if left unchecked so the numbers of insects can keep growing, your plants will start to suffer. Gnat-infested plants will of course grow slowly and will not be as robust as they should be due to the constant feeding on their roots.

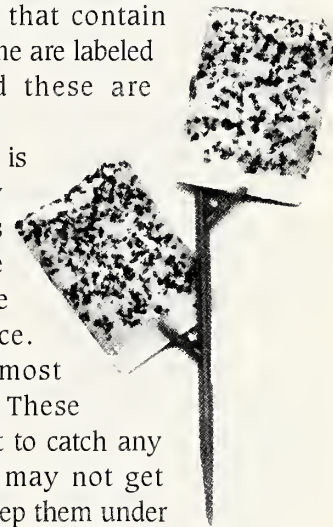
It seems like there must be gnat eggs in packaged peat moss based potting mixes, so it is recommended that you sterilize any new mix. (Microwave or 180°F in oven)

The adults are easily controlled with most regular house plant insect sprays. The maggots can be reduced by letting

the soil get fairly dry between watering but this is not always good for some of your plants. Soil drenches with solutions of malathion or Sevin are recommended. Always be careful to follow directions that come with this type of product. There are powders that contain diazinon that are available (some are labeled for the fungus gnats) and these are sprinkled into your soil.

Control of the flying adults is also safely accomplished by using the yellow sticky sticks and strips. The gnats are attracted to the yellow and are trapped on the sticky surface. Eventually you will catch most adults and break the cycle. These traps should always be present to catch any new gnats. Using the traps may not get 100% of the pests but it will keep them under control to the point where there should be no significant damage being done to your plants.

Another 'safe' method for fighting these pests is the use of beneficial nematodes, a natural predator of the fungus gnat larvae.



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African Violet and Gesneriad News*

Sometimes You Have to Improvise: An Affiliate Program Suggestion

by David Buttram
Independence, MO

If you are the Program Chairman or an officer of your African violet club, you may want to try a fresh idea. After all, there are only so many ways you can root leaves.

Several years ago, when our affiliate, The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, had a good bank balance, we decided to bring in a nationally known hybridizer and AVSA commercial. As Program Chairman, I saw that airline tickets were purchased, a hotel room was reserved, publicity was sent out, and then all was set.

The day before he was to arrive, a phone call from our invited guest sent me into a near panic. Our guest-to-be had suddenly become ill and had to cancel his trip.

With newspapers already notified and invitations sent out, what to do? What could we do?

Then an idea occurred to me. If our guest couldn't come to us, then we would go to another guest via the phone lines and a tape recorder. I contacted our club president and got permission to go ahead and explore the possibility.

I went to Radio Shack and bought a small microphone especially designed to pick up telephone conversations. Then I called three well-known hybridizers and asked if they would be willing to be interviewed by telephone, with that conversation to be recorded and later played at a club meeting. I next asked for a convenient time to call back.

My next step was to practice talking on the phone with family members with the tape recorder on to get the proper sound level. After being satisfied with the results, I made my first call back.

Just as soon as the party answered, I started the recorder and asked, "Please understand that I am recording this conversation. Will you give me your permission to continue?" In most states, once the other person has acknowledged and granted his permission, it is legal to continue.

The questions and answers lasted about ten minutes for each of the three growers. The questions were general questions I thought the club members would have asked: "How did you get started?" "How do you water?" "What about fertilizer?" "What are your new introductions like?"

The total time for the three growers was a little more than thirty minutes.

The next evening, I arrived at the club meeting with my cassette player and no guest. Most of the members had not

heard of the cancellation and were puzzled to see me alone. I immediately explained the situation and promised an excellent substitute.

The taped interviews were a hit with the club. Many of the members had never been to an AVSA convention or visited a major greenhouse to hear a well-known hybridizer share his or her insights and thoughts on African violets.

As word got around about the interviews, the presidents of three other clubs called me, asking to borrow the cassette tape for a program. I was glad to share with them what had turned out to be a great program. And it was a lot cheaper than the airline tickets and hotel expenses.

Summary

- 1) Ask your club members who they would like to hear via telephone recording. If time permits, have them submit questions.
- 2) Call the Attorney General's office in the state where you are calling to have them advise you on the legality of recording a phone call in that state.
- 3) Call the hybridizer/grower and explain your plan and ask for a few minutes for an interview.
If agreeable, ask for a convenient time to call back. This will allow the person time to gather a few thoughts and finish a job they may have been doing when you called.
- 4) Buy a microphone for a telephone. Any electronics store should have them for only \$6.00 to \$8.00. These have a suction cup that easily sticks to the back of the head piece and requires no wiring or electrical hookup.
- 5) Make sure your tape player has a new cassette and fresh batteries and is powerful enough to be heard in your meeting room.
- 6) After the meeting, send a "Thank You" to each person interviewed.
- 7) Let other clubs in your area know of the tape and offer it for their use. They may be willing to reimburse for a portion of the long-distance phone calls.

Sometimes it is more interesting to improvise than it is to follow carefully laid plans. That was the case for us, and I think your club will enjoy it too.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
2 Fri. 11:35 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
5 Mon. 6:22 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Tues.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 6:57 am
7 Wed. 10:22 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
8 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
9 Fri. 11:59 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
10 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
11 Sun. 12:27 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	New 9:24 pm
13 Tue. 1:25 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
14 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
15 Thu. 4:39 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
16 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
17 Sat. 11:19 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
18 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
19 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
20 Tue. 9:30 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 4:01 am
21 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
22 Thu. 9:49 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
23 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Sun. 10:09 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
27 Tue. 8:55 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 6:25 am
29 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
30 Fri. 5:27 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
31 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun. 11:47 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
2 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
3 Tue. 4:08 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
4 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 12:26 pm
5 Thu. 6:57 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
6 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
7 Sat. 8:52 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
8 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
9 Mon. 10:55 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 6:09 am
12 Thu. 2:22 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
13 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
14 Sat. 8:25 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
15 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
16 Mon. 5:41 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
17 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 8:48 pm
19 Thu. 5:32 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Sat. 5:59 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
22 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
23 Mon. 4:49 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
24 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
25 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
26 Thu. 12:49 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 6:48 pm
27 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
28 Sat. 6:09 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
30 Mon. 9:40 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
31 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL AVSA AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS

from Anne Tinari, Membership & Promotion Committee Chairman

Box 190, 2325 Valley Rd. • Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

We regard AVSA affiliates as the backbone of our great society. To every Affiliate President we are innovating a special request for you to be instrumental in suggesting that all of your club members become members of AVSA. This may not seem an easy task, but our need for new members is urgent.

You are probably aware of our membership reduction in the past few years. We need your help in a special effort to increase our membership to the lucrative number we enjoyed over the years.

Our committee has sent out, since January, over 200 personal letters with self addressed, stamped envelopes to former non-renewal members with very little response. Through this "open letter" we hope to contact all affiliate presidents.

Please inform me if your affiliate meets the 100% AVSA membership request. A listing of all 100% affiliates will be published in a future issue of the AVM.

We wish to thank every member of the affiliate and your Affiliate Chairman, Bev Promersberger for her special service to AVSA.

The fabric of our society is made of individuals who care and wish to further the future of AVSA into the new millennium - help us achieve this goal.

SPECIAL BONUS TO CLUBS WITH 100% AVSA MEMBERSHIP

A 50th Anniversary Book will be sent to the first 50 affiliate clubs who report their 100% AVSA membership (please state number of members). Presidents, please send me your full name and address so this may be sent to you promptly for your club's library.

Please act now, as only the first 50 affiliates who send me this information will be entitled to this special bonus.

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2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
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6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
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15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
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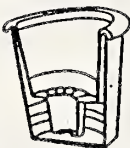
POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
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SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75	4 oz./\$7.75
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HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
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Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25	
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INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES			
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SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00	
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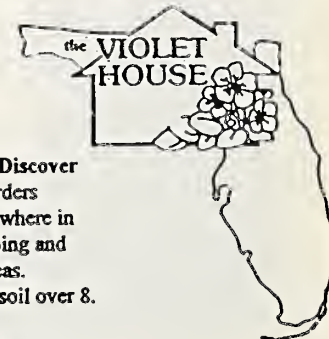
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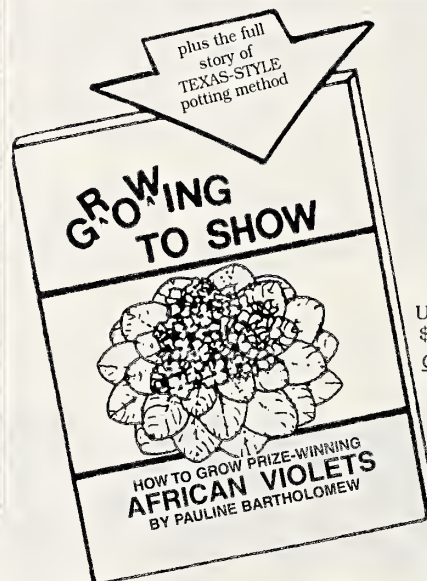
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SPECIAL OFFER ... We have available MINI-DANDY POTS suitable for the

Indian Summer Series violets only in pink or blue ... \$3.25 each

TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION MAY WE SUGGEST:

TINARI'S AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM

Properly blended growing medium; the same as used in our greenhouse operation,

ph of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

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12 Quart poly bag zone 3-4-5 \$13.95 ppd.

12 Quart poly bag zone 6-7-8-9 \$14.95 ppd.

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

OPTIMARA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD - An excellent formulation of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash 14-12-14. Each box contains 15 pre-measured packets. Simply mix one pre-measured packet in one gallon of water ... \$2.49 per box with any order.

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PACKING AND POSTAL COSTS:

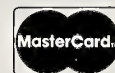
First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone 0-1-2 \$6.95 per shipment

Zone 3-4-5 \$7.95 per shipment

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CA and all customers West of MS are served best via USPS
PRIORITY. Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage
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GREENHOUSES

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